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25TH
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THE NEW
MUTANTS
TM
75¢
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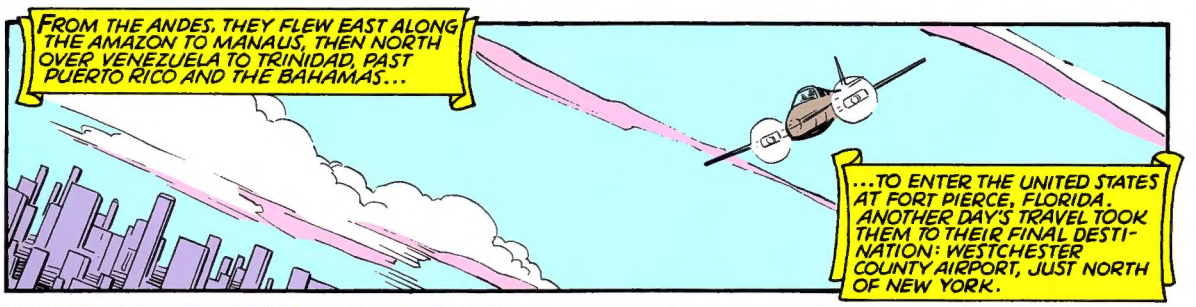
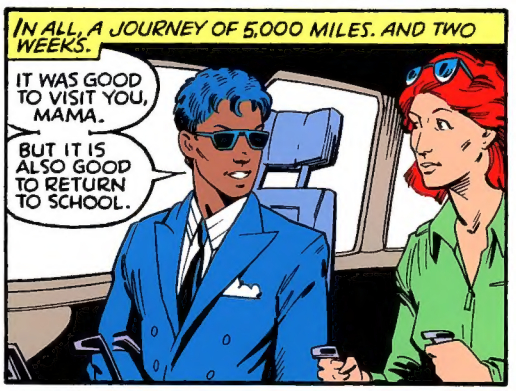
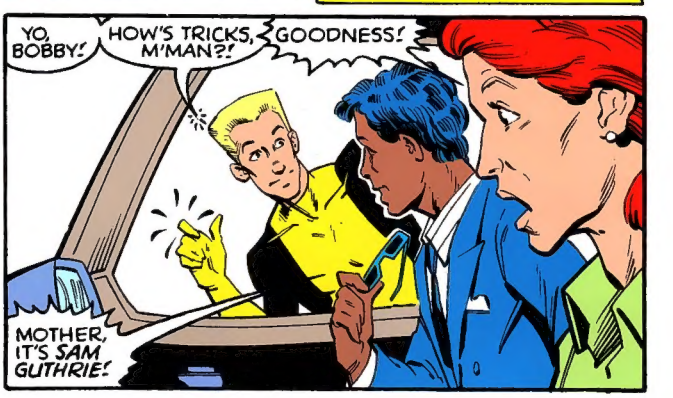
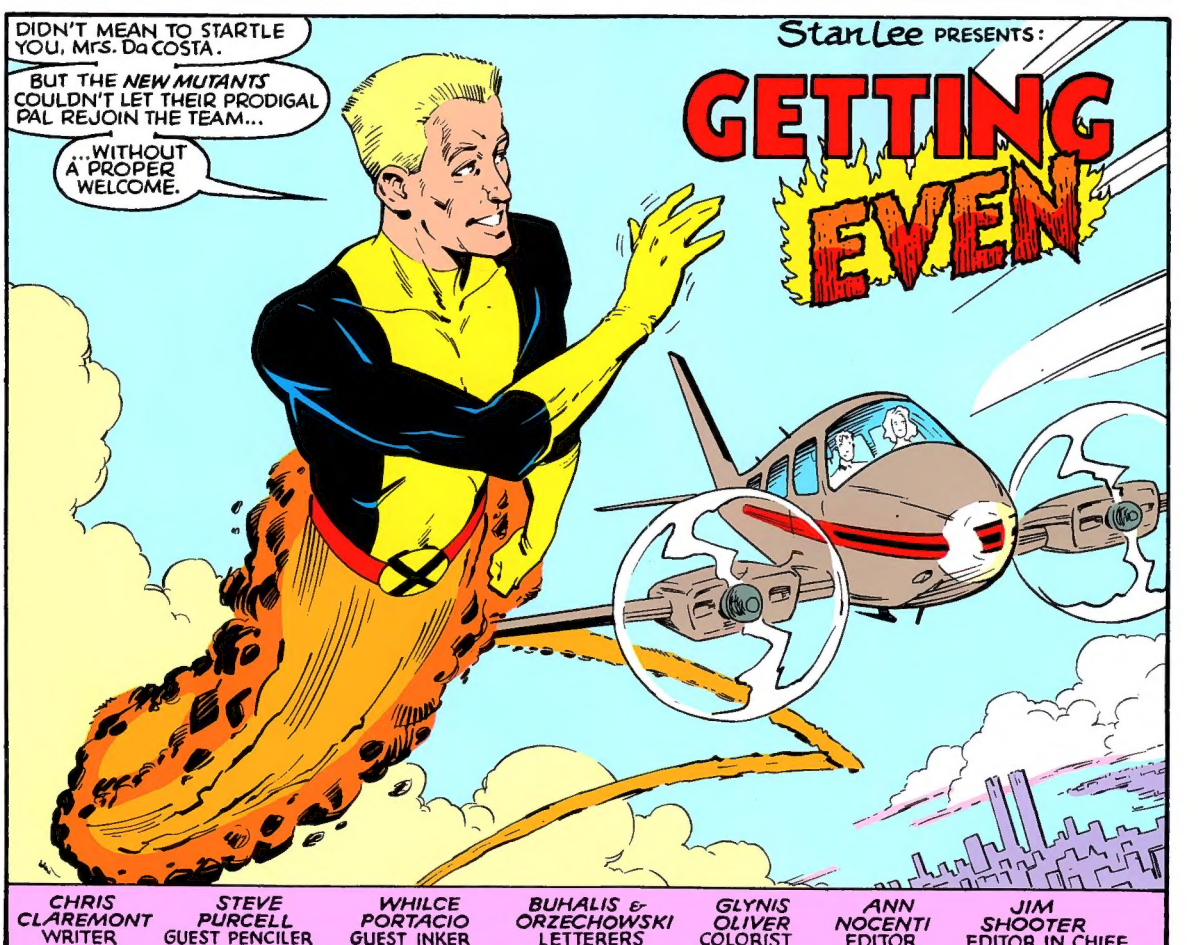
43
SEP
GIVE THE GIFT
OF LITERACY.


FROM THE ANDES, THEY FLEW EAST ALONG THE AMAZON TO MANAUS, THEN NORTH OVER VENEZUELA TO TRINIDAD, PAST PUERTO RICO AND THE BAHAMAS...
...TO ENTER THE UNITED STATES AT FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA. ANOTHER DAY'S TRAVEL TOOK THEM TO THEIR FINAL DESTINATION: WESTCHESTER COUNTY AIRPORT, JUST NORTH OF NEW YORK.

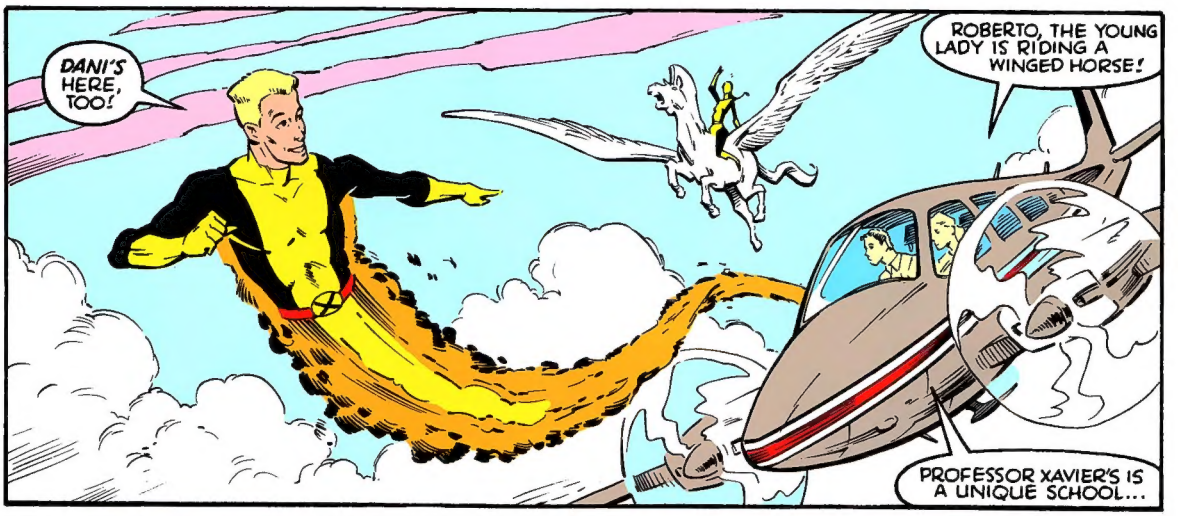




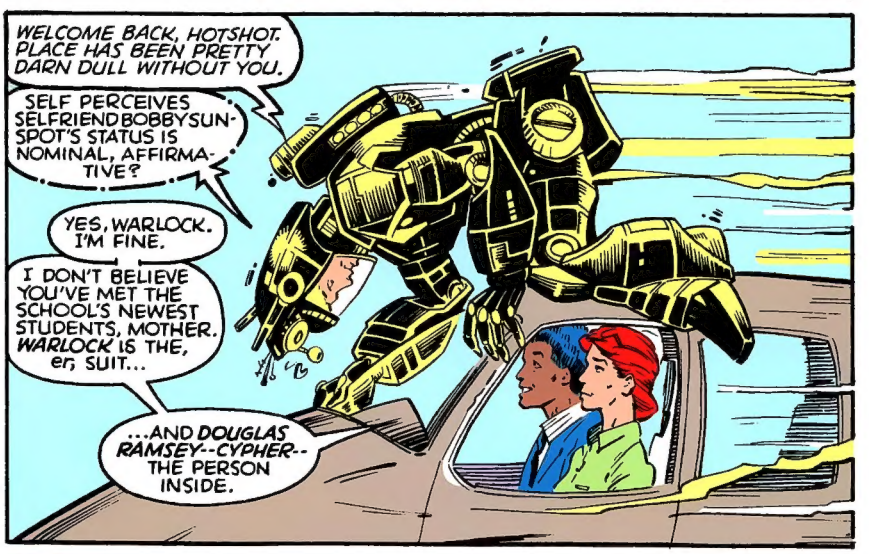

DIDN'T MEAN TO STARTLE YOU, Mrs. Da COSTA.
BUT THE NEW MUTANTS COULDN'T LET THEIR PRODIGAL PAL REJOIN THE TEAM...
...WITHOUT A PROPER WELCOME.
Stan Lee PRESENTS:
GETTING EVEN

CHRIS CLAREMONT WRITER	STEVE PURCELL GUEST PENCILER	WHILCE PORTACIO GUEST INKER	BUHALIS & ORZECHOWSKI LETTERERS	GLYNIS OLIVER COLORIST	ANN NOCENTI EDITOR	JIM SHOOTER EDITOR IN CHIEF

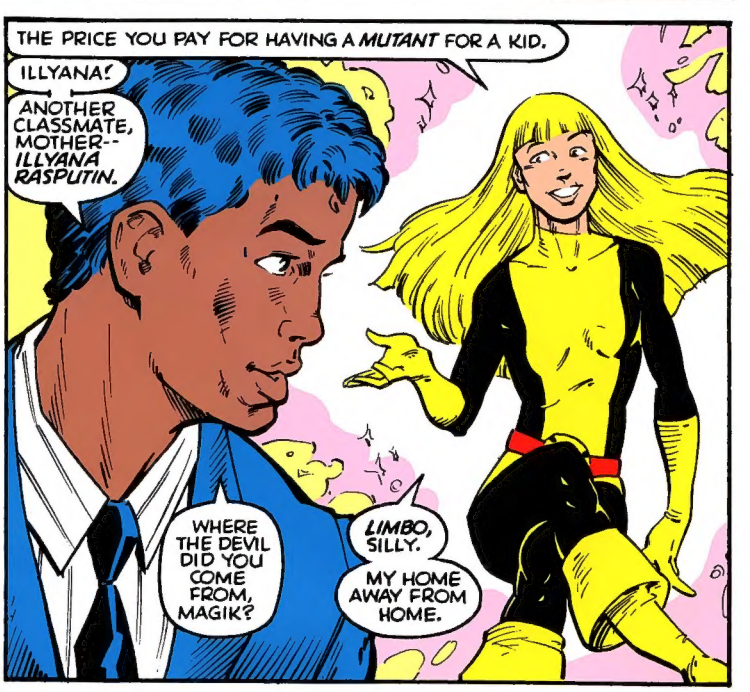
THE NEW MUTANTS **Vol. 1, No. 43, September, 1986.** Published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice-President. Milton Schiffman, Vice-President: Production. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published monthly. Copyright © 1986 by Marvel Comics Group, a division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Price 75¢ per copy in the U.S. and 95¢ in Canada. Subscription rate $9.00 for 12 issues: Canada and Foreign, $11.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE NEW MUTANTS (including all prominent characters featured in the issue), and the distinctive likenesses thereof, are trademarks of the MARVEL COMICS GROUP. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO NEW MUTANTS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, 10TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.**

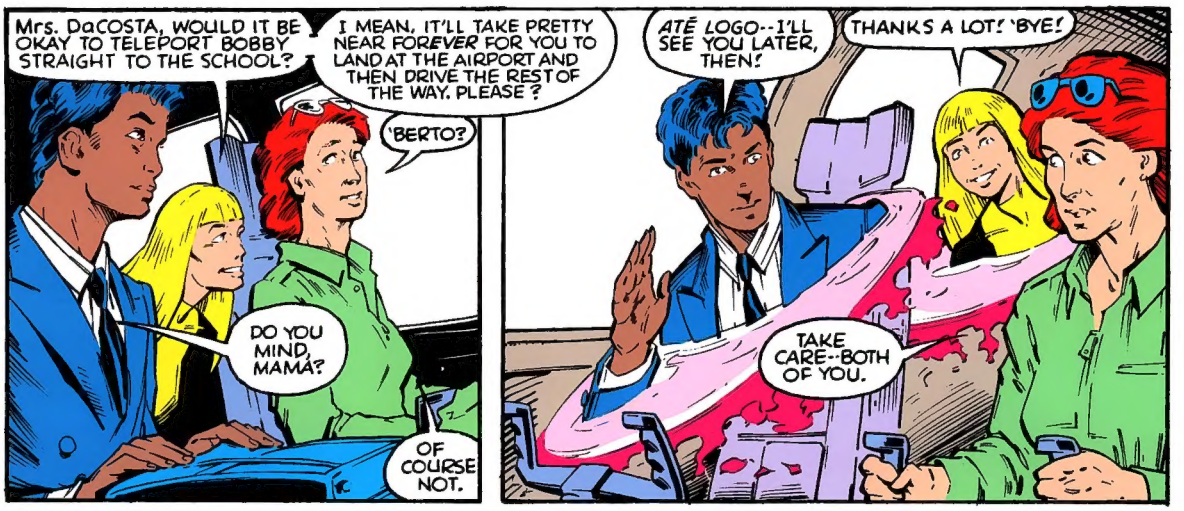

DANI'S HERE, TOO!
ROBERTO, THE YOUNG LADY IS RIDING A WINGED HORSE!
PROFESSOR XAVIER'S IS A UNIQUE SCHOOL...

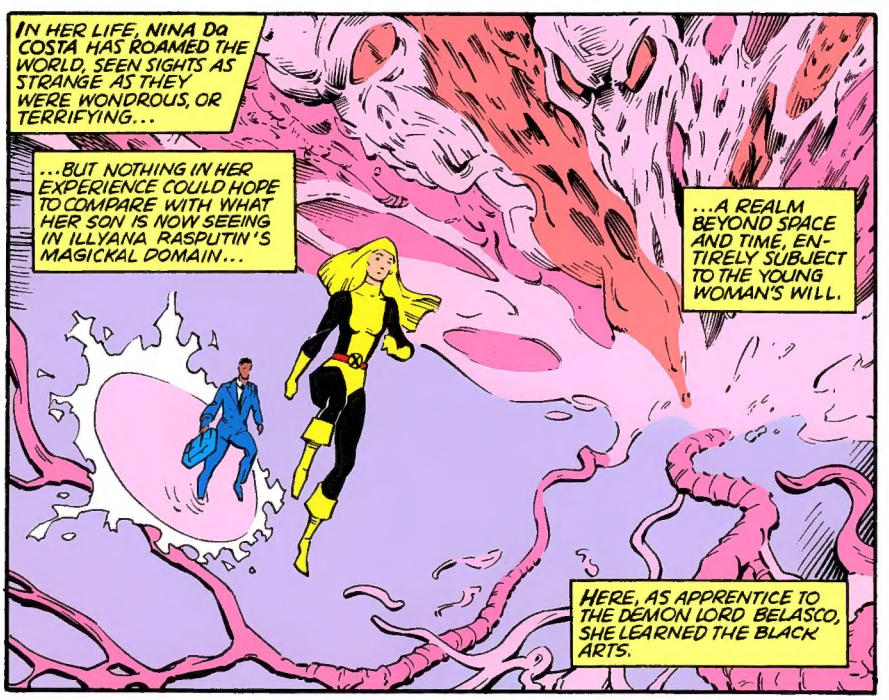
...FOR UNIQUE YOUNG PEOPLE...
SO I SEE.
NOK NOK


WELCOME BACK, HOTSHOT. PLACE HAS BEEN PRETTY DARN DULL WITHOUT YOU.
SELF PERCEIVES SELFRIENDBOBBYSUN-SPOT'S STATUS IS NOMINAL, AFFIRMA-TIVE?
YES, WARLOCK. I'M FINE.
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU'VE MET THE SCHOOL'S NEWEST STUDENTS, MOTHER. *WARLOCK* IS THE, er, SUIT...
...AND *DOUGLAS RAMSEY--CYPHER--* THE PERSON INSIDE.

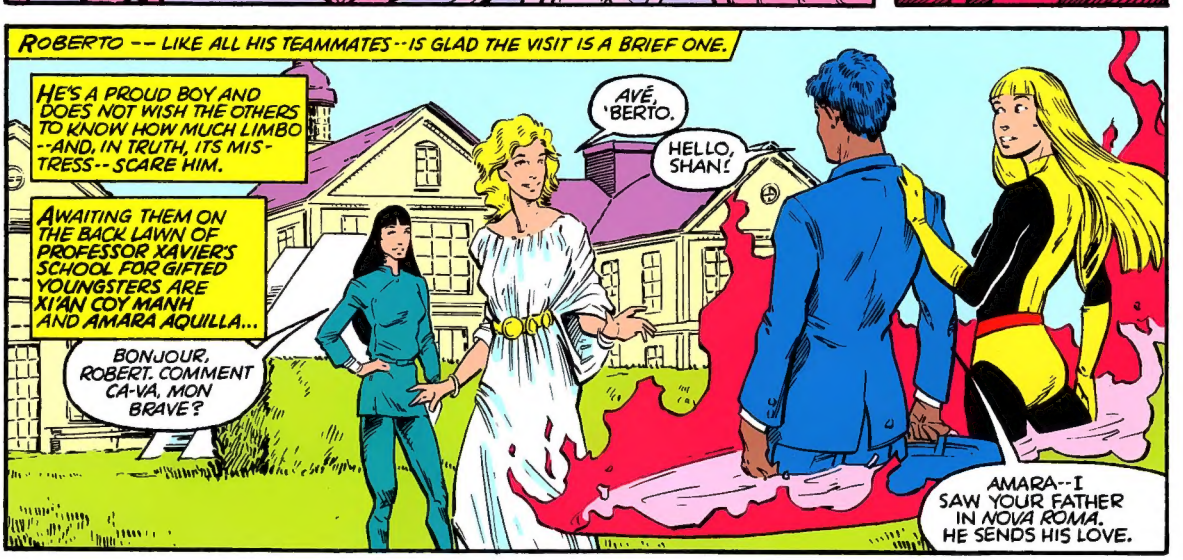
A... PLEASURE.
MOTHER-- IS ALL THIS UPSETTING YOU?!
NO, NOT REALLY, BUT YOUR LIFE--AND FRIENDS-- DO TAKE SOME GETTING USED TO.

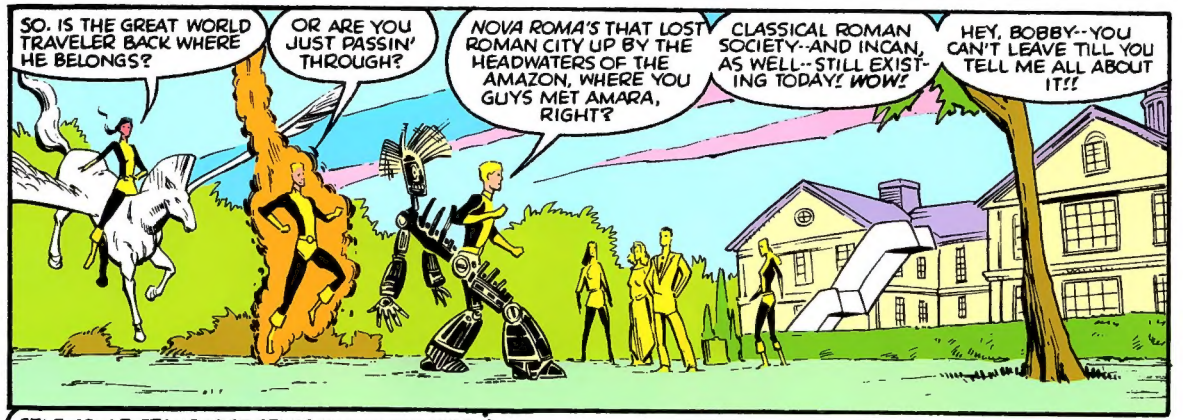

THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR HAVING A *MUTANT* FOR A KID.
ILLYANA!
ANOTHER CLASSMATE, MOTHER-- *ILLYANA RASPUTIN.*
WHERE THE DEVIL DID YOU COME FROM, MAGIK?
LIMBO, SILLY.
MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME.


Mrs. DaCOSTA, WOULD IT BE OKAY TO TELEPORT BOBBY STRAIGHT TO THE SCHOOL?
I MEAN, IT'LL TAKE PRETTY NEAR FOREVER FOR YOU TO LAND AT THE AIRPORT AND THEN DRIVE THE REST OF THE WAY. PLEASE?
'BERTO?
DO YOU MIND, MAMÁ?
OF COURSE NOT.
ATÉ LOGO--I'LL SEE YOU LATER, THEN!
THANKS A LOT! 'BYE!
TAKE CARE--BOTH OF YOU.


IN HER LIFE, NINA Da COSTA HAS ROAMED THE WORLD, SEEN SIGHTS AS STRANGE AS THEY WERE WONDROUS, OR TERRIFYING...
...BUT NOTHING IN HER EXPERIENCE COULD HOPE TO COMPARE WITH WHAT HER SON IS NOW SEEING IN ILLYANA RASPUTIN'S MAGICKAL DOMAIN...
...A REALM BEYOND SPACE AND TIME, ENTIRELY SUBJECT TO THE YOUNG WOMAN'S WILL.
HERE, AS APPRENTICE TO THE DÉMON LORD BELASCO, SHE LEARNED THE BLACK ARTS.

BUT IT IS HER MUTANT POWER THAT ENABLES HER TO JUMP FROM HERE TO ANY PLACE IN THE COSMOS, ANY MOMENT IN HISTORY.
A USEFUL TALENT.

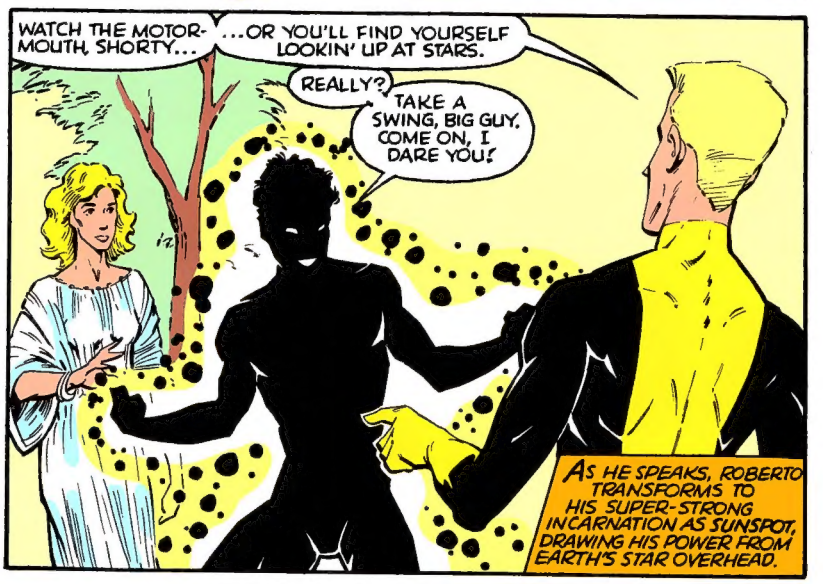

ROBERTO -- LIKE ALL HIS TEAMMATES--IS GLAD THE VISIT IS A BRIEF ONE.
HE'S A PROUD BOY AND DOES NOT WISH THE OTHERS TO KNOW HOW MUCH LIMBO --AND, IN TRUTH, ITS MISTRESS-- SCARE HIM.
AWAITING THEM ON THE BACK LAWN OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS ARE XI'AN COY MANH AND AMARA AQUILLA...
BONJOUR, ROBERT. COMMENT CA-VA, MON BRAVE?
AVÉ, 'BERTO.
HELLO, SHAN!
AMARA--I SAW YOUR FATHER IN NOVA ROMA. HE SENDS HIS LOVE.

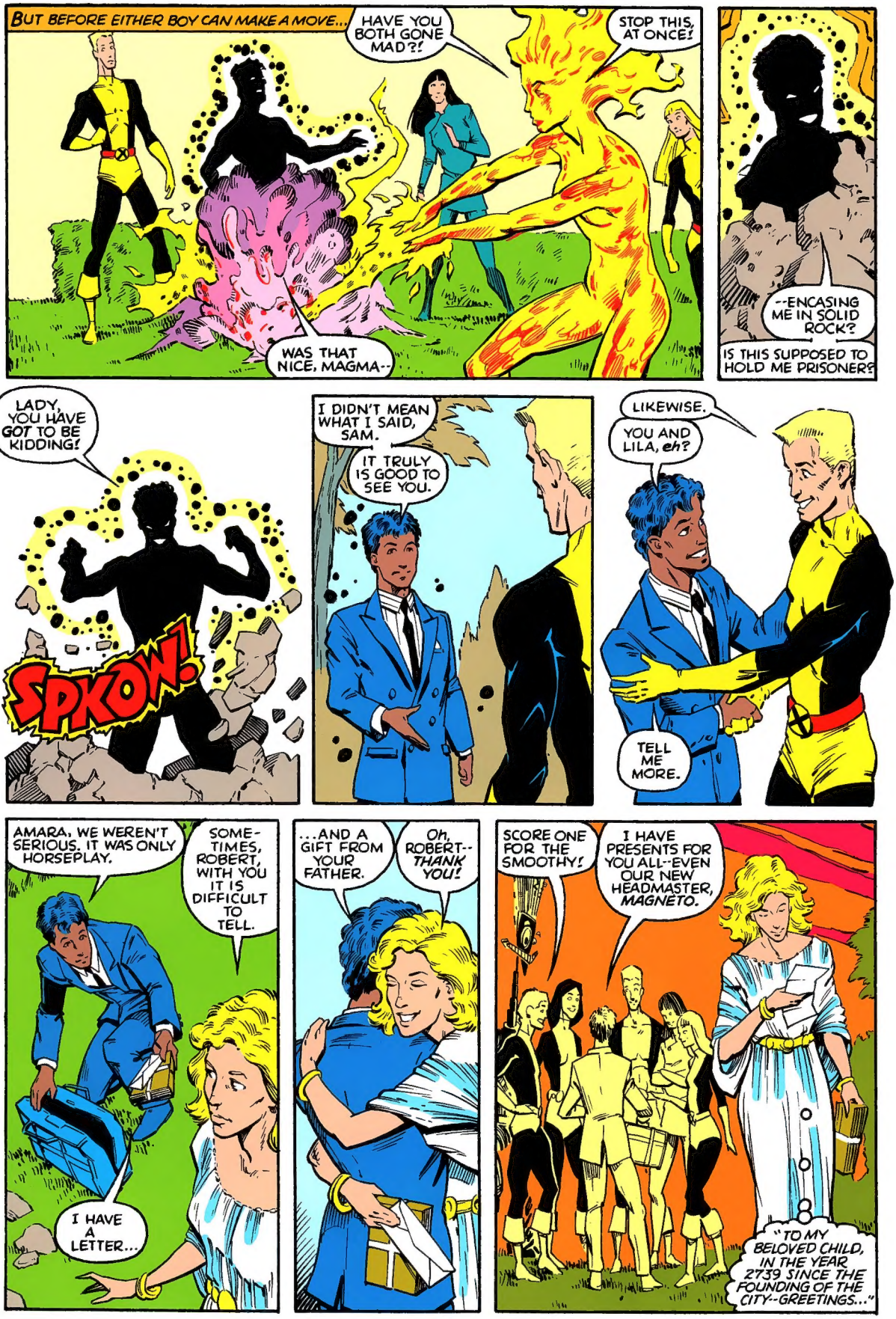

SO. IS THE GREAT WORLD TRAVELER BACK WHERE HE BELONGS?
OR ARE YOU JUST PASSIN' THROUGH?
NOVA ROMA'S THAT LOST ROMAN CITY UP BY THE HEADWATERS OF THE AMAZON, WHERE YOU GUYS MET AMARA, RIGHT?
CLASSICAL ROMAN SOCIETY--AND INCAN, AS WELL--STILL EXISTING TODAY! WOW!
HEY, BOBBY--YOU CAN'T LEAVE TILL YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!!

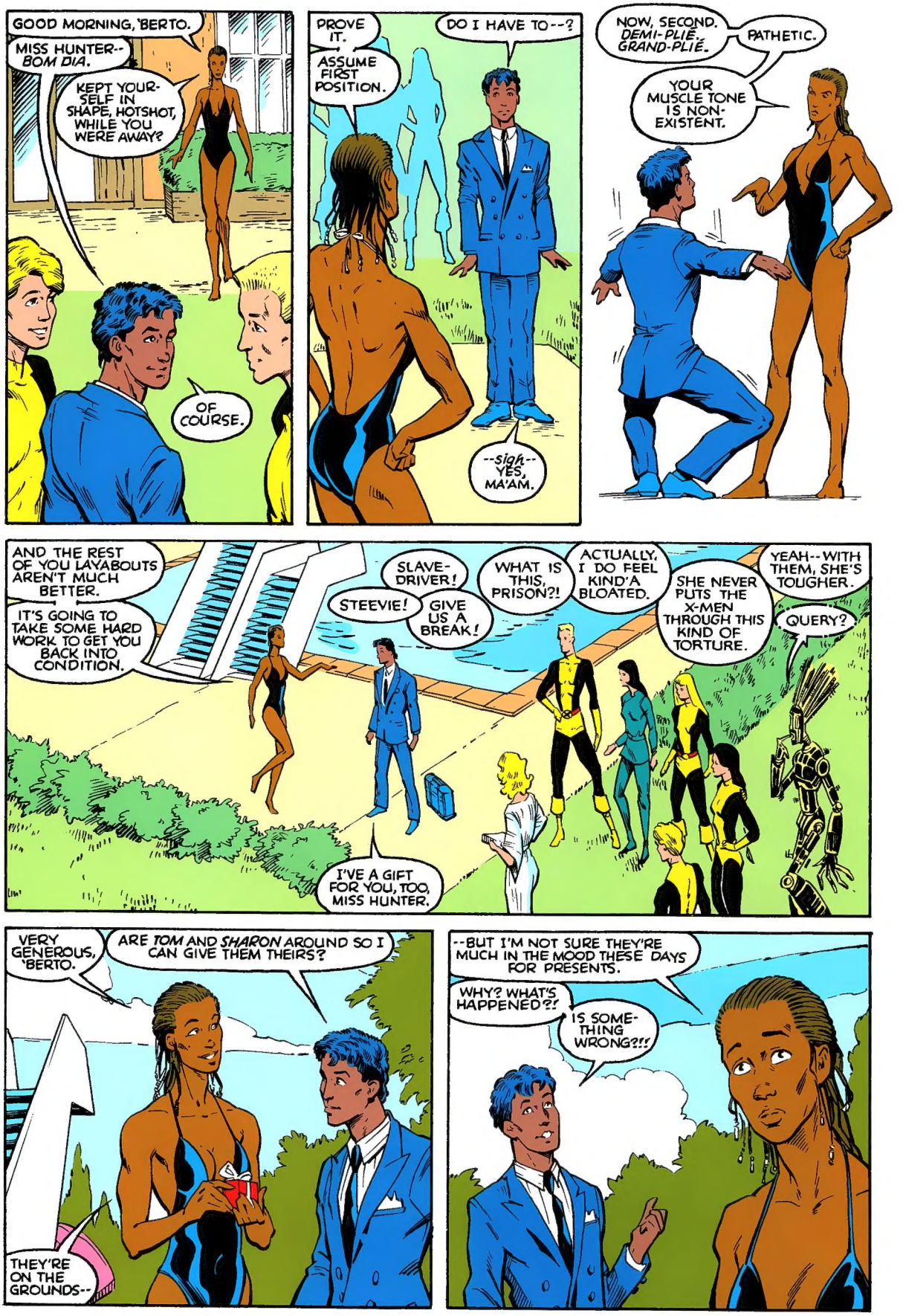
SELF COULD TRANSPORT SELFRIENDOUG THERE.
THAT'D BE GREAT, LIKE TRAVELING BACK IN TIME TO VISIT THE ORIGINALS.
YOU WANT THAT, DOUG, I CAN ARRANGE IT.
NOBODY'S GOING ANYWHERE, FOR THE MOMENT!
FOR SHAME, MIRAGE--WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF ADVENTURE?

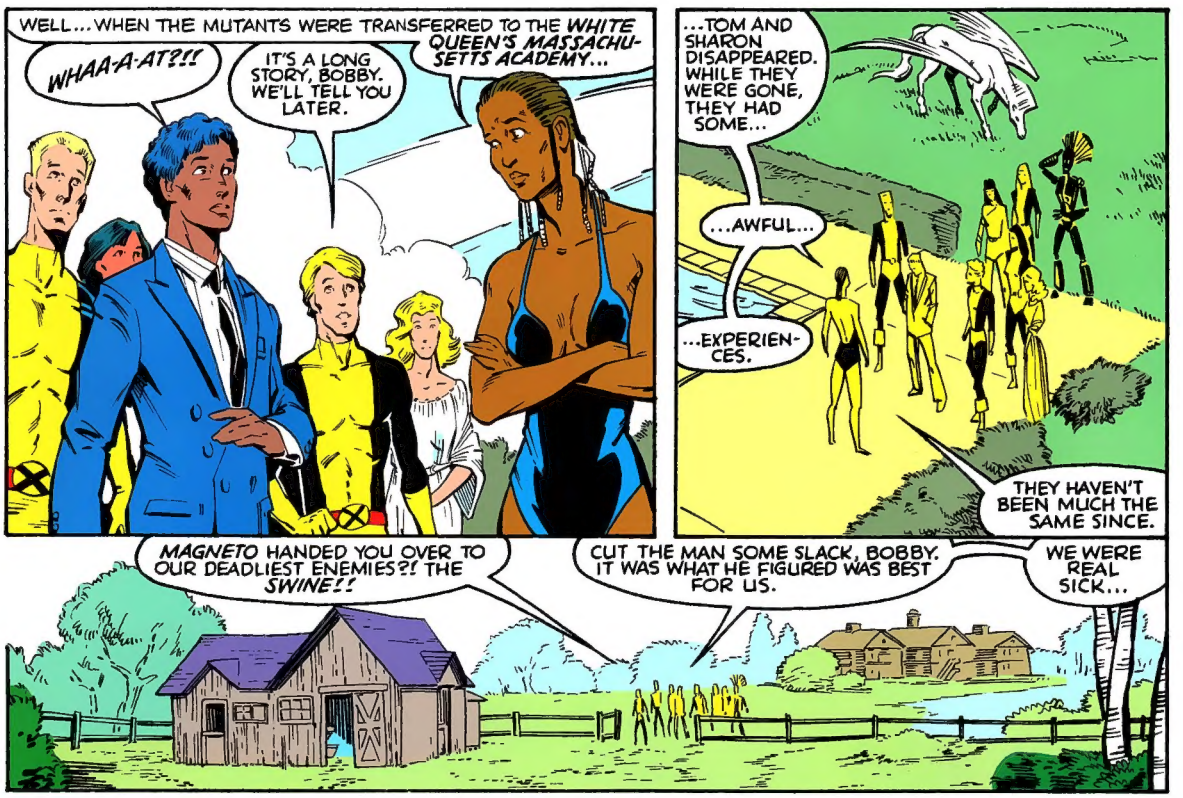
WE'VE HAD ADVENTURES ENOUGH LATELY TO LAST A LIFETIME, PAL.
YER LOOKIN' PRETTY SHARP, BOBBY.
A PITY, SAM, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR YOU.
AS GAWKY AS EVER, I SEE.
NOT ACCORDING TO MAM'SELLE LILA CHENEY.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
SOME WOMEN HAVE NO TASTE, WHATSOEVER!

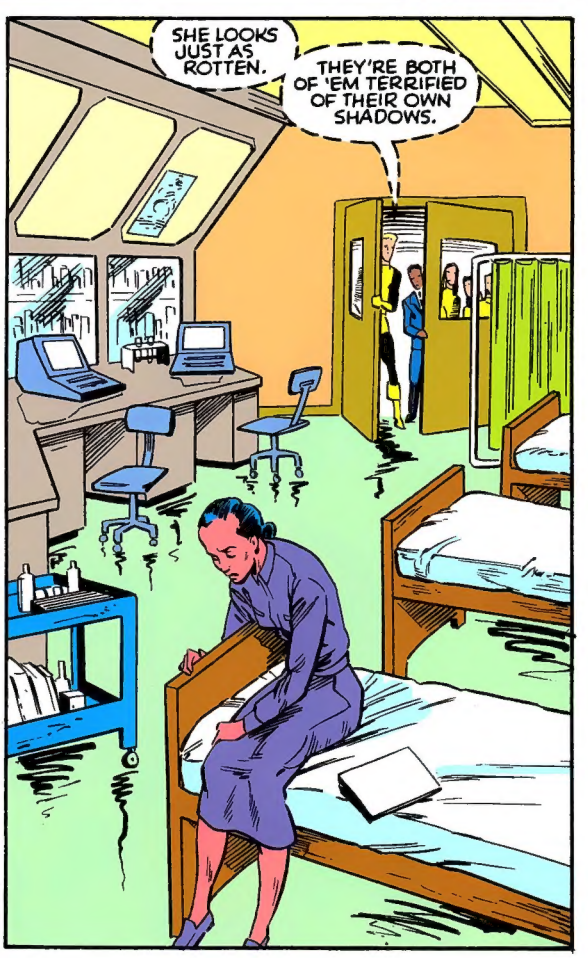

WATCH THE MOTOR-MOUTH, SHORTY...
...OR YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF LOOKIN' UP AT STARS.
REALLY?
TAKE A SWING, BIG GUY. COME ON, I DARE YOU!
AS HE SPEAKS, ROBERTO TRANSFORMS TO HIS SUPER-STRONG INCARNATION AS SUNSPOT, DRAWING HIS POWER FROM EARTH'S STAR OVERHEAD.

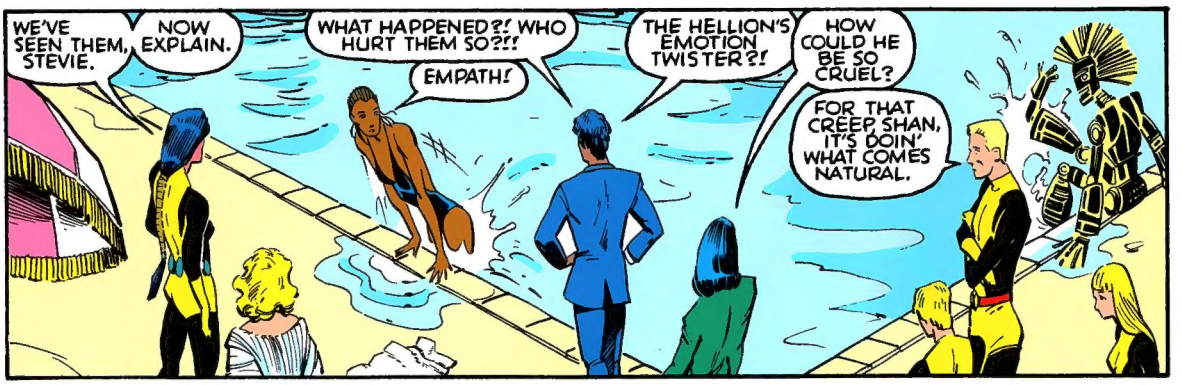

BUT BEFORE EITHER BOY CAN MAKE A MOVE...
HAVE YOU BOTH GONE MAD?!
STOP THIS, AT ONCE!
WAS THAT NICE, MAGMA--
--ENCASING ME IN SOLID ROCK?
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO HOLD ME PRISONER?
LADY, YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
SPKOW!
I DIDN'T MEAN WHAT I SAID, SAM.
IT TRULY IS GOOD TO SEE YOU.
LIKEWISE.
YOU AND LILA, eh?
TELL ME MORE.
AMARA, WE WEREN'T SERIOUS. IT WAS ONLY HORSEPLAY.
SOMETIMES, ROBERT, WITH YOU IT IS DIFFICULT TO TELL.
I HAVE A LETTER...
...AND A GIFT FROM YOUR FATHER.
Oh, ROBERT--THANK YOU!
SCORE ONE FOR THE SMOOTHY!
I HAVE PRESENTS FOR YOU ALL--EVEN OUR NEW HEADMASTER, MAGNETO.
"TO MY BELOVED CHILD, IN THE YEAR 2739 SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY--GREETINGS..."

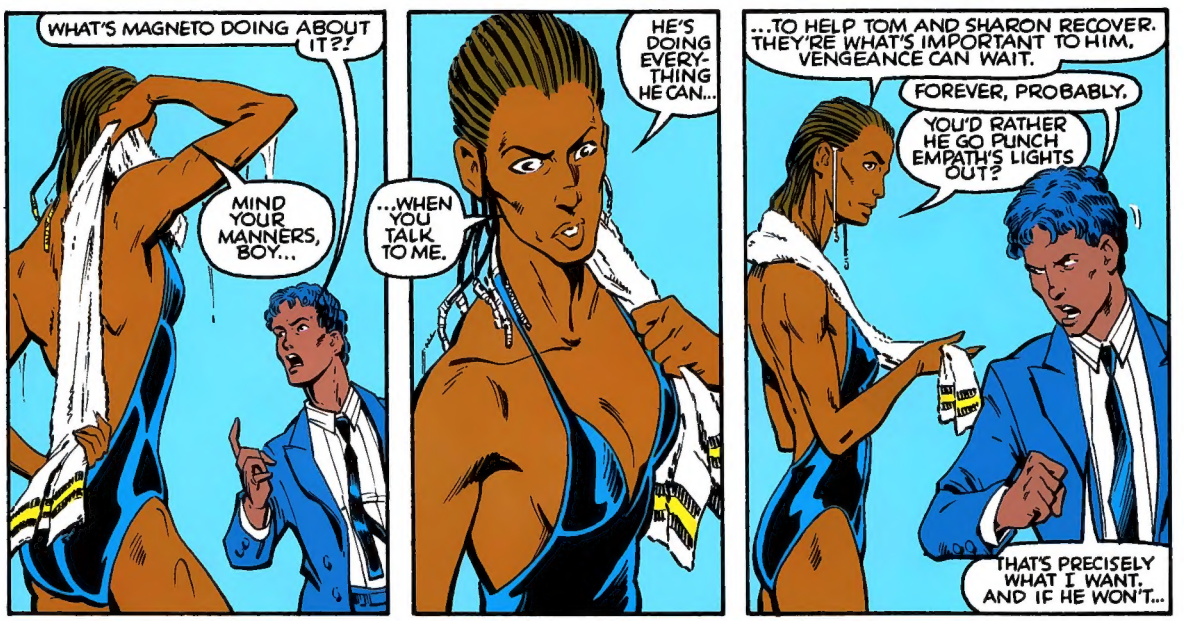

GOOD MORNING, 'BERTO.
MISS HUNTER-- BOM DIA.
KEPT YOURSELF IN SHAPE, HOTSHOT, WHILE YOU WERE AWAY?
OF COURSE.
PROVE IT.
ASSUME FIRST POSITION.
DO I HAVE TO--?
--sigh-- YES, MA'AM.
NOW, SECOND. DEMI-PLIÉ. GRAND-PLIÉ.
PATHETIC.
YOUR MUSCLE TONE IS NON-EXISTENT.
AND THE REST OF YOU LAYABOUTS AREN'T MUCH BETTER.
IT'S GOING TO TAKE SOME HARD WORK TO GET YOU BACK INTO CONDITION.
SLAVE-DRIVER!
STEEVIE!
GIVE US A BREAK!
WHAT IS THIS, PRISON?!
ACTUALLY, I DO FEEL KIND'A BLOATED.
SHE NEVER PUTS THE X-MEN THROUGH THIS KIND OF TORTURE.
YEAH--WITH THEM, SHE'S TOUGHER.
QUERY?
I'VE A GIFT FOR YOU, TOO, MISS HUNTER.
VERY GENEROUS, 'BERTO.
ARE TOM AND SHARON AROUND SO I CAN GIVE THEM THEIRS?
THEY'RE ON THE GROUNDS--
--BUT I'M NOT SURE THEY'RE MUCH IN THE MOOD THESE DAYS FOR PRESENTS.
WHY? WHAT'S HAPPENED?!
IS SOMETHING WRONG?!!

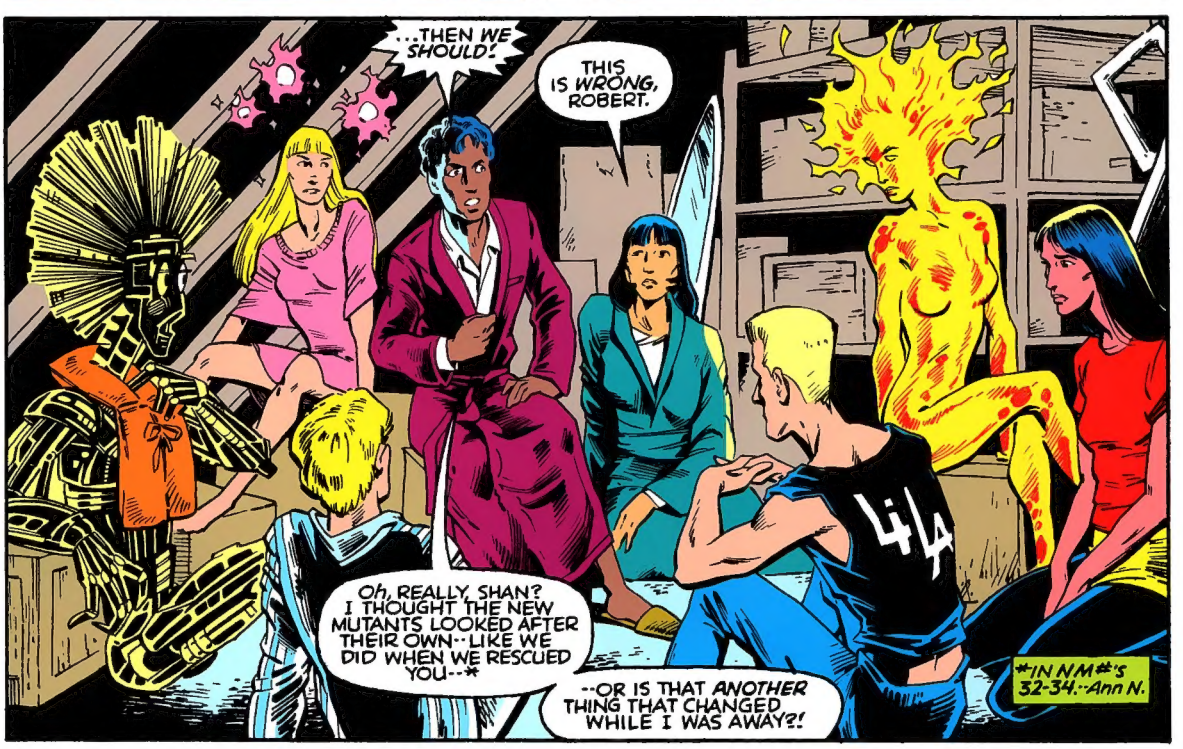

WELL... WHEN THE MUTANTS WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE WHITE QUEEN'S MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY...
WHAA-A-AT?!!
IT'S A LONG STORY, BOBBY. WE'LL TELL YOU LATER.
...TOM AND SHARON DISAPPEARED. WHILE THEY WERE GONE, THEY HAD SOME...
...AWFUL...
...EXPERIENCES.
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN MUCH THE SAME SINCE.
MAGNETO HANDED YOU OVER TO OUR DEADLIEST ENEMIES?! THE SWINE!!
CUT THE MAN SOME SLACK, BOBBY. IT WAS WHAT HE FIGURED WAS BEST FOR US.
WE WERE REAL SICK...

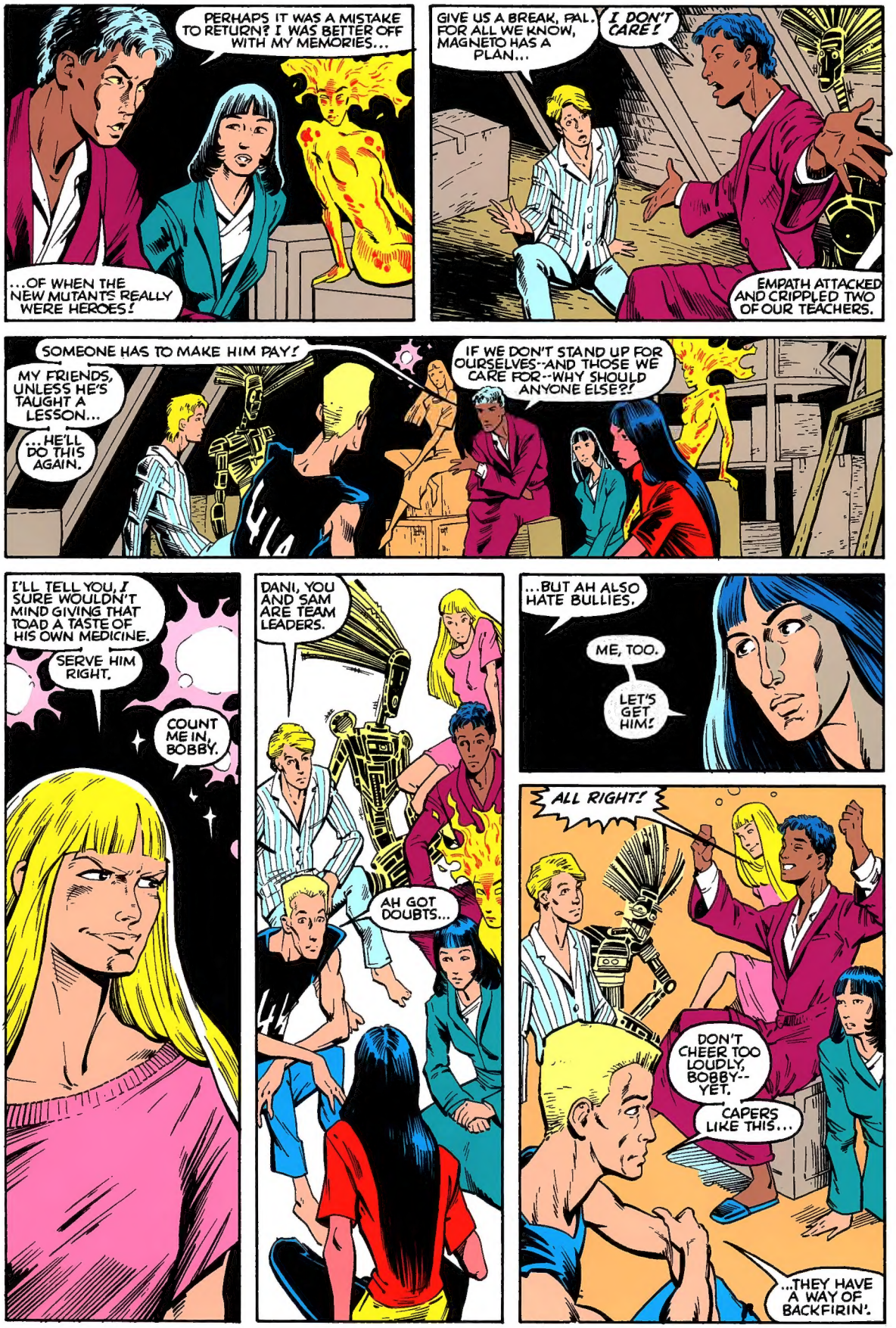
...AN' THE WHITE QUEEN SEEMED TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD MAKE US WELL.
PERHAPS THEN, SAM, SHE SHOULD WORK SUCH WONDROUS MIRACLES...
...ON TOM!
HUSH, BOTH OF YOU, HE'LL HEAR!
DANI, HE LOOKS SO-- OLD!
SHARON IS IN THE MEDICAL FACILITY, MY FRIENDS.

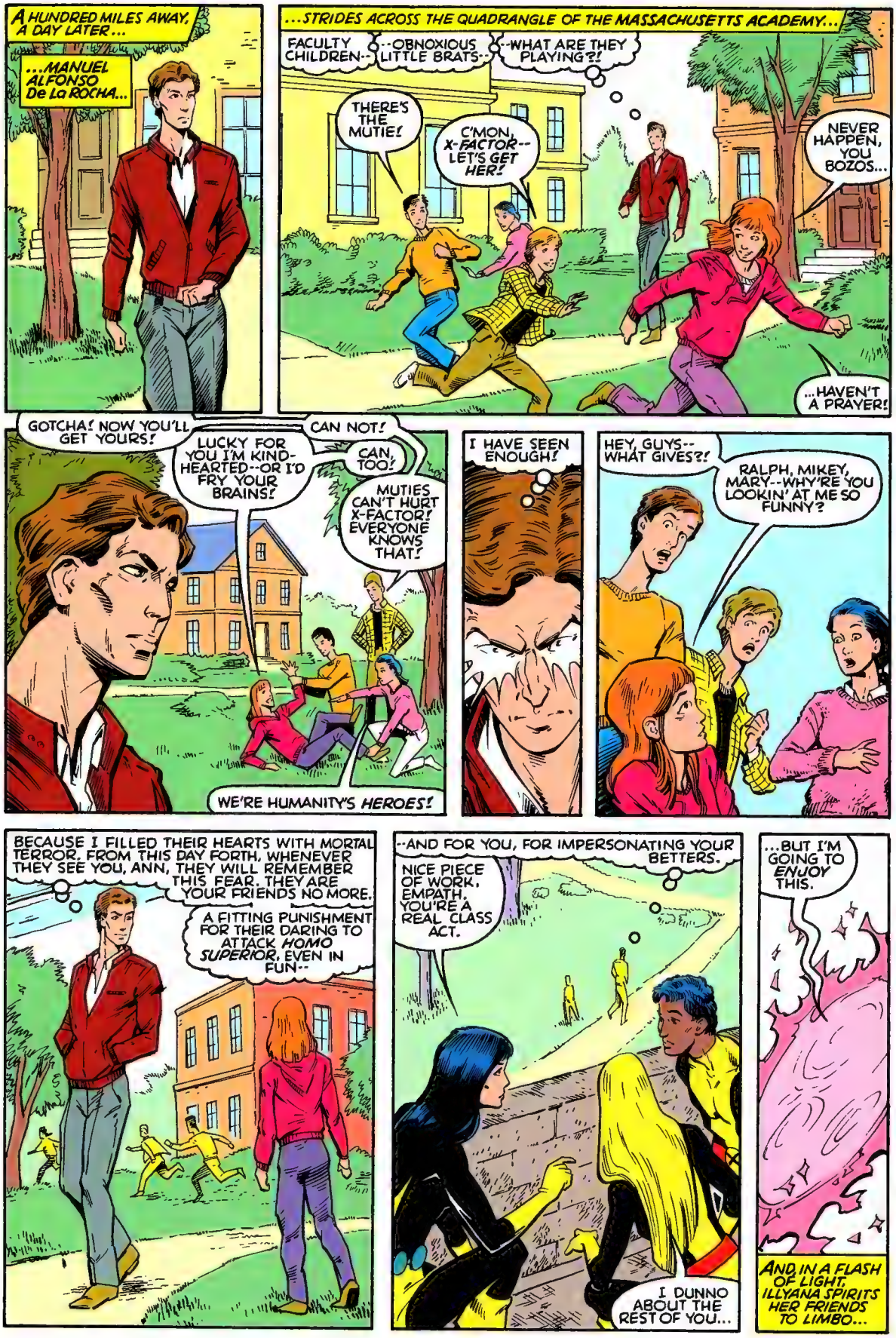

SHE LOOKS JUST AS ROTTEN.
THEY'RE BOTH OF 'EM TERRIFIED OF THEIR OWN SHADOWS.

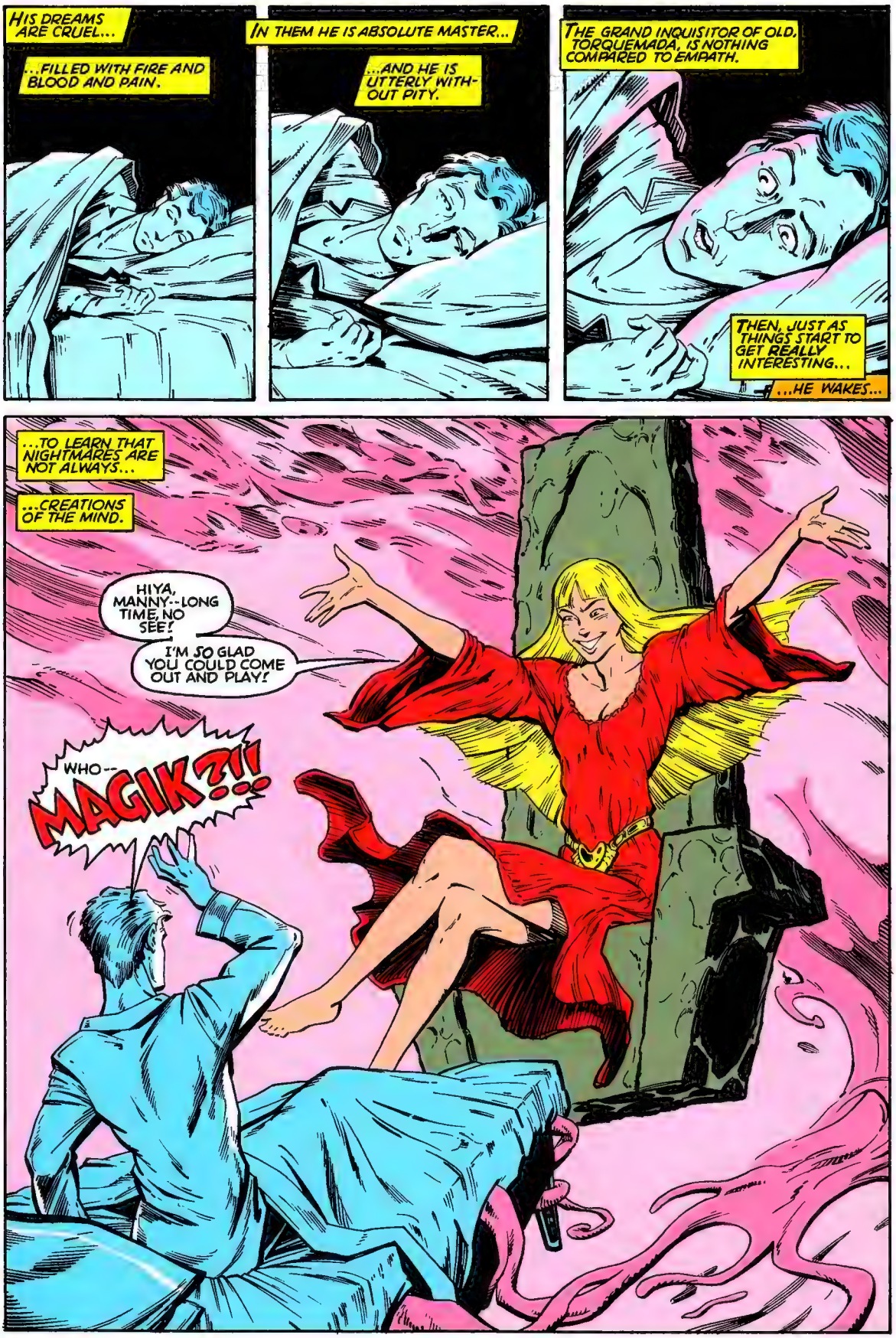

WE'VE SEEN THEM, STEVIE.
NOW EXPLAIN.
WHAT HAPPENED?! WHO HURT THEM SO?!!
EMPATH!
THE HELLION'S EMOTION TWISTER?!
HOW COULD HE BE SO CRUEL?
FOR THAT CREEP SHAN, IT'S DOIN' WHAT COMES NATURAL.

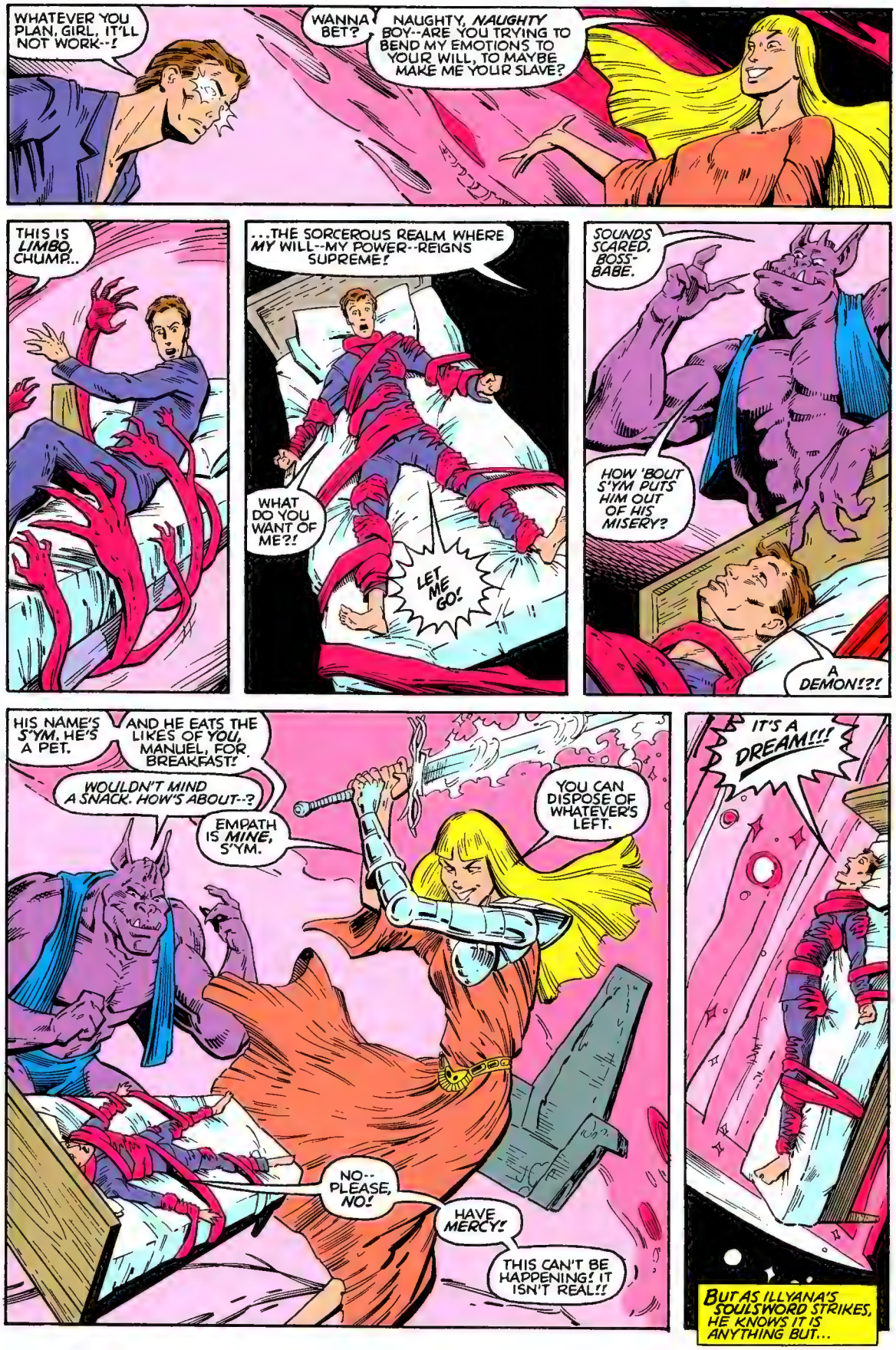

WHAT'S MAGNETO DOING ABOUT IT?!
MIND YOUR MANNERS, BOY...
...WHEN YOU TALK TO ME.
HE'S DOING EVERY-THING HE CAN...
...TO HELP TOM AND SHARON RECOVER. THEY'RE WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO HIM. VENGEANCE CAN WAIT.
FOREVER, PROBABLY.
YOU'D RATHER HE GO PUNCH EMPATH'S LIGHTS OUT?
THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I WANT. AND IF HE WON'T...

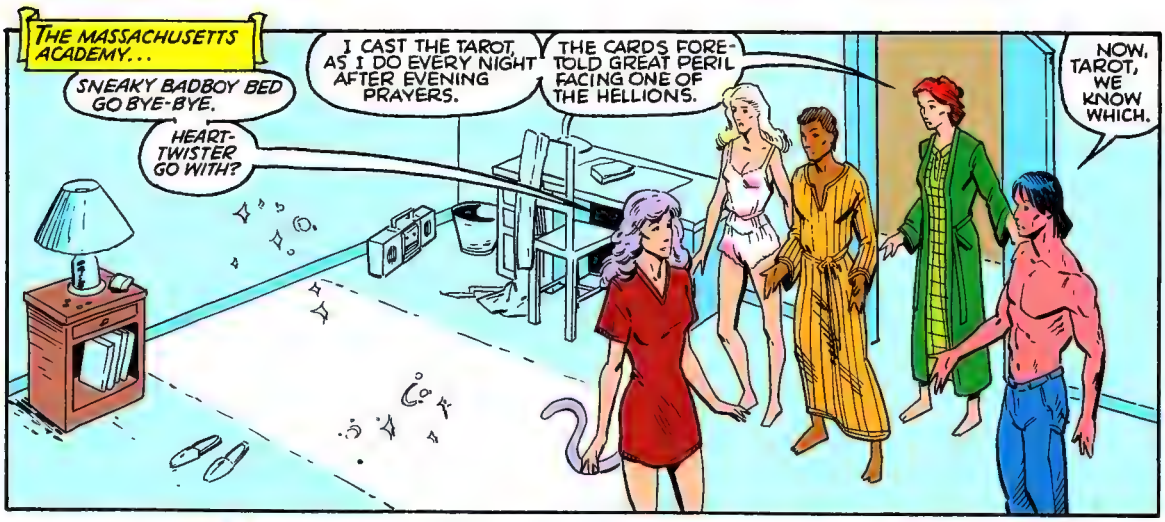

...THEN WE SHOULD!
THIS IS WRONG, ROBERT.
Oh, REALLY, SHAN? I THOUGHT THE NEW MUTANTS LOOKED AFTER THEIR OWN--LIKE WE DID WHEN WE RESCUED YOU--*
--OR IS THAT ANOTHER THING THAT CHANGED WHILE I WAS AWAY?!
*IN NM#'S 32-34.--Ann N.


PERHAPS IT WAS A MISTAKE TO RETURN? I WAS BETTER OFF WITH MY MEMORIES...
...OF WHEN THE NEW MUTANTS REALLY WERE HEROES!
GIVE US A BREAK, PAL. FOR ALL WE KNOW, MAGNETO HAS A PLAN...
I DON'T CARE!
EMPATH ATTACKED AND CRIPPLED TWO OF OUR TEACHERS.
SOMEONE HAS TO MAKE HIM PAY!
MY FRIENDS, UNLESS HE'S TAUGHT A LESSON...
...HE'LL DO THIS AGAIN.
IF WE DON'T STAND UP FOR OURSELVES--AND THOSE WE CARE FOR--WHY SHOULD ANYONE ELSE?!
I'LL TELL YOU, I SURE WOULDN'T MIND GIVING THAT TOAD A TASTE OF HIS OWN MEDICINE.
SERVE HIM RIGHT.
COUNT ME IN, BOBBY.
DANI, YOU AND SAM ARE TEAM LEADERS.
AH GOT DOUBTS...
...BUT AH ALSO HATE BULLIES.
ME, TOO.
LET'S GET HIM!
ALL RIGHT!
DON'T CHEER TOO LOUDLY, BOBBY--YET.
CAPERS LIKE THIS...
...THEY HAVE A WAY OF BACKFIRIN'.

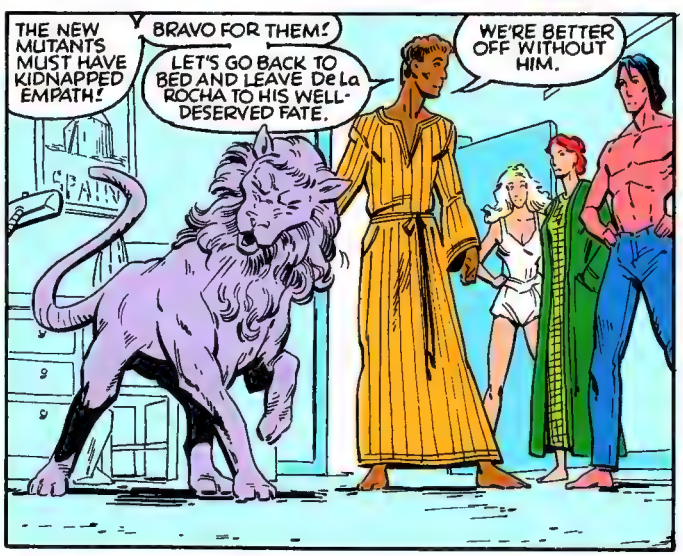

A HUNDRED MILES AWAY, A DAY LATER...
...MANUEL ALFONSO De La ROCHA...
...STRIDES ACROSS THE QUADRANGLE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY...
FACULTY CHILDREN--
--OBNOXIOUS LITTLE BRATS--
--WHAT ARE THEY PLAYING?!
THERE'S THE MUTIE!
C'MON, X-FACTOR-- LET'S GET HER!
NEVER HAPPEN, YOU BOZOS...
...HAVEN'T A PRAYER!
GOTCHA! NOW YOU'LL GET YOURS!
LUCKY FOR YOU I'M KIND-HEARTED--OR I'D FRY YOUR BRAINS!
CAN NOT!
CAN, TOO!
MUTIES CAN'T HURT X-FACTOR! EVERYONE KNOWS THAT!
WE'RE HUMANITY'S HEROES!
I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH!
HEY, GUYS-- WHAT GIVES?!
RALPH, MIKEY, MARY--WHY'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT ME SO FUNNY?
BECAUSE I FILLED THEIR HEARTS WITH MORTAL TERROR. FROM THIS DAY FORTH, WHENEVER THEY SEE YOU, ANN, THEY WILL REMEMBER THIS FEAR. THEY ARE YOUR FRIENDS NO MORE.
A FITTING PUNISHMENT FOR THEIR DARING TO ATTACK HOMO SUPERIOR, EVEN IN FUN--
--AND FOR YOU, FOR IMPERSONATING YOUR BETTERS.
NICE PIECE OF WORK, EMPATH. YOU'RE A REAL CLASS ACT.
I DUNNO ABOUT THE REST OF YOU...
...BUT I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS.
AND IN A FLASH OF LIGHT, ILLYANA SPIRITS HER FRIENDS TO LIMBO...


HIS DREAMS ARE CRUEL...
...FILLED WITH FIRE AND BLOOD AND PAIN.
IN THEM HE IS ABSOLUTE MASTER...
...AND HE IS UTTERLY WITHOUT PITY.
THE GRAND INQUISITOR OF OLD, TORQUEMADA, IS NOTHING COMPARED TO EMPATH.
THEN, JUST AS THINGS START TO GET REALLY INTERESTING...
...HE WAKES...
...TO LEARN THAT NIGHTMARES ARE NOT ALWAYS...
...CREATIONS OF THE MIND.
HIYA, MANNY--LONG TIME, NO SEE!
I'M SO GLAD YOU COULD COME OUT AND PLAY!
WHO--
MAGIK?!!

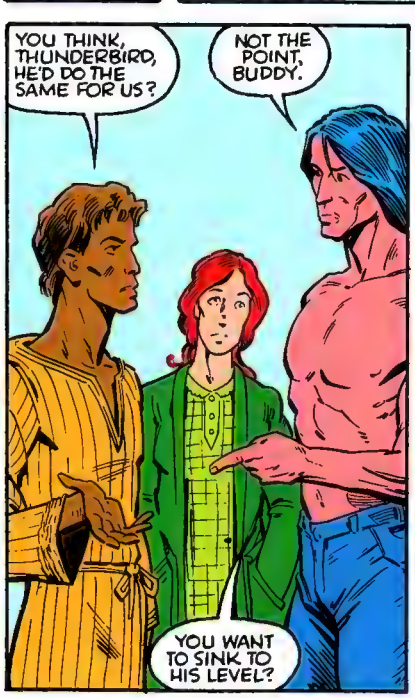

WHATEVER YOU PLAN, GIRL, IT'LL NOT WORK--!
WANNA BET?
NAUGHTY, NAUGHTY BOY--ARE YOU TRYING TO BEND MY EMOTIONS TO YOUR WILL, TO MAYBE MAKE ME YOUR SLAVE?
THIS IS LIMBO, CHUMP...
...THE SORCEROUS REALM WHERE MY WILL--MY POWER--REIGNS SUPREME!
WHAT DO YOU WANT OF ME?!
LET ME GO!
SOUNDS SCARED, BOSS-BABE.
HOW 'BOUT S'YM PUTS HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY?
A DEMON!?!
HIS NAME'S S'YM. HE'S A PET.
AND HE EATS THE LIKES OF YOU, MANUEL, FOR BREAKFAST!
WOULDN'T MIND A SNACK. HOW'S ABOUT--?
EMPATH IS MINE, S'YM.
YOU CAN DISPOSE OF WHATEVER'S LEFT.
NO--PLEASE, NO!
HAVE MERCY!
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING! IT ISN'T REAL!!
IT'S A DREAM!!!
BUT AS ILLYANA'S SOULSWORD STRIKES, HE KNOWS IT IS ANYTHING BUT...

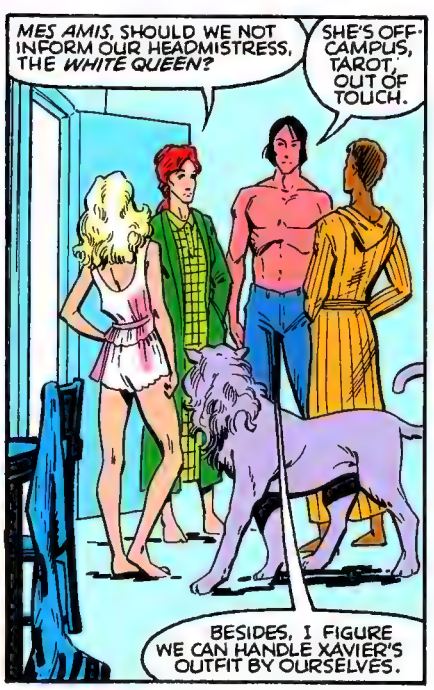

THE MASSACHUSETTS ACADEMY...
SNEAKY BADBOY BED GO BYE-BYE.
HEART-TWISTER GO WITH?
I CAST THE TAROT, AS I DO EVERY NIGHT AFTER EVENING PRAYERS.
THE CARDS FORE-TOLD GREAT PERIL FACING ONE OF THE HELLIONS.
NOW, TAROT, WE KNOW WHICH.

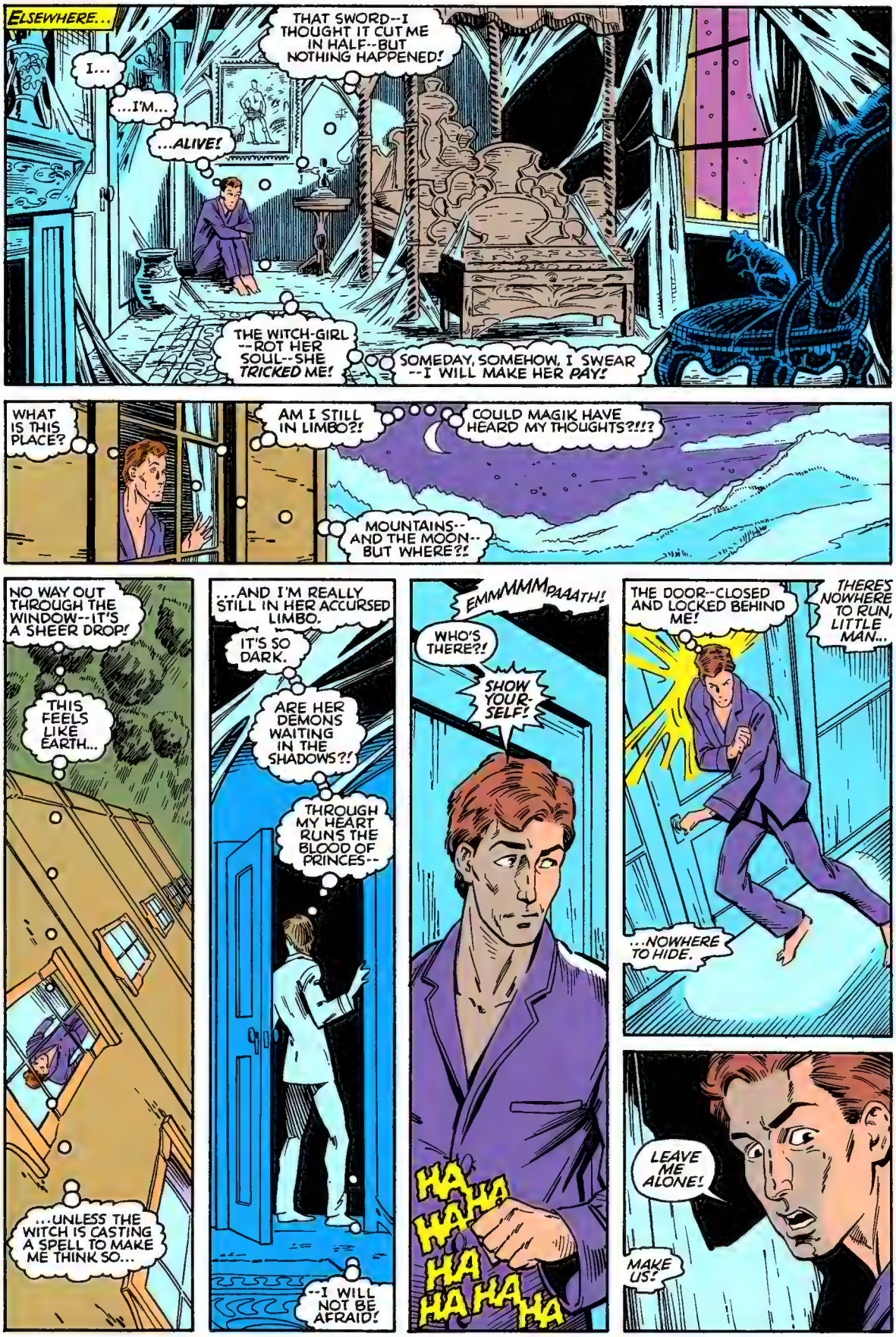
CATSEYE, SHIFT INTO YOUR FURFORM.
PERHAPS YOUR FELINE SENSES CAN SPOT SOME CLUES?
PHAUGGH--
CHOO!
!EUCKH-- NASTY STINK ALL 'ROUND--SAME AS CATSEYE SCENTED ON MUTANT MAGIKCHILD!

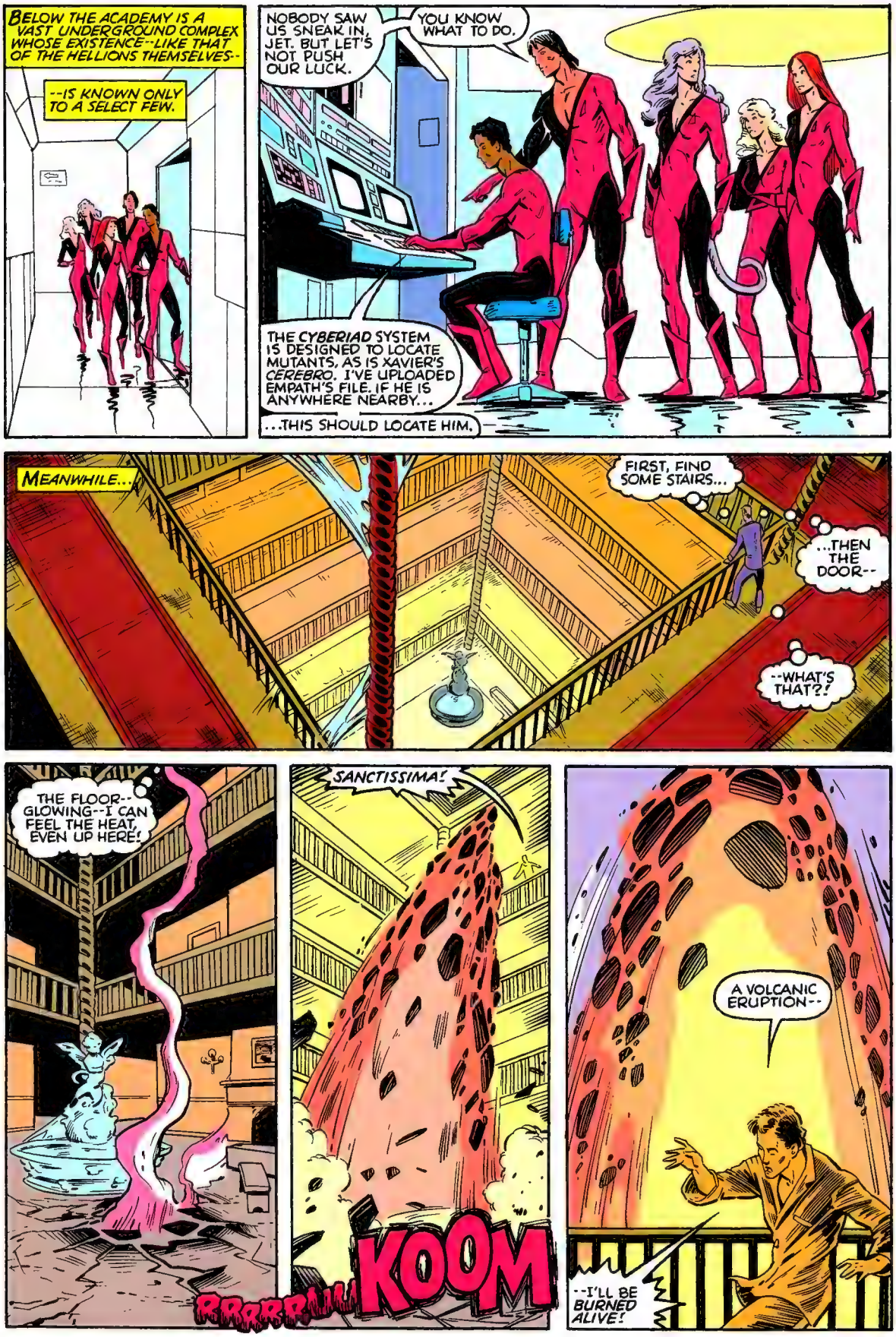

THE NEW MUTANTS MUST HAVE KIDNAPPED EMPATH!
BRAVO FOR THEM!
LET'S GO BACK TO BED AND LEAVE De la ROCHA TO HIS WELL-DESERVED FATE.
WE'RE BETTER OFF WITHOUT HIM.

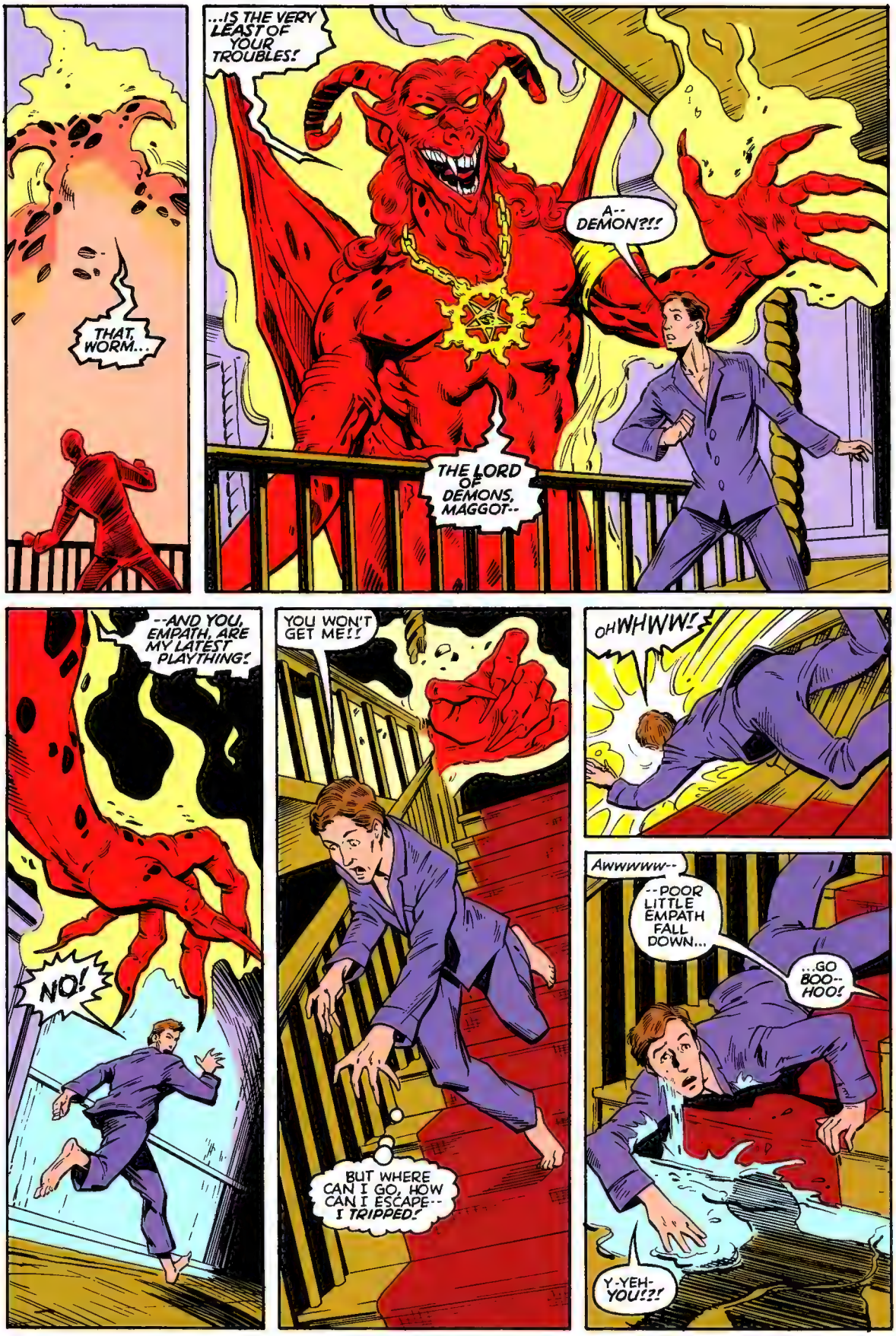
THAT'S *HIS* STYLE, JETSTREAM--
--NOT OURS.
SO LONG AS HE'S PART OF THE TEAM, WE LOOK OUT FOR HIM.

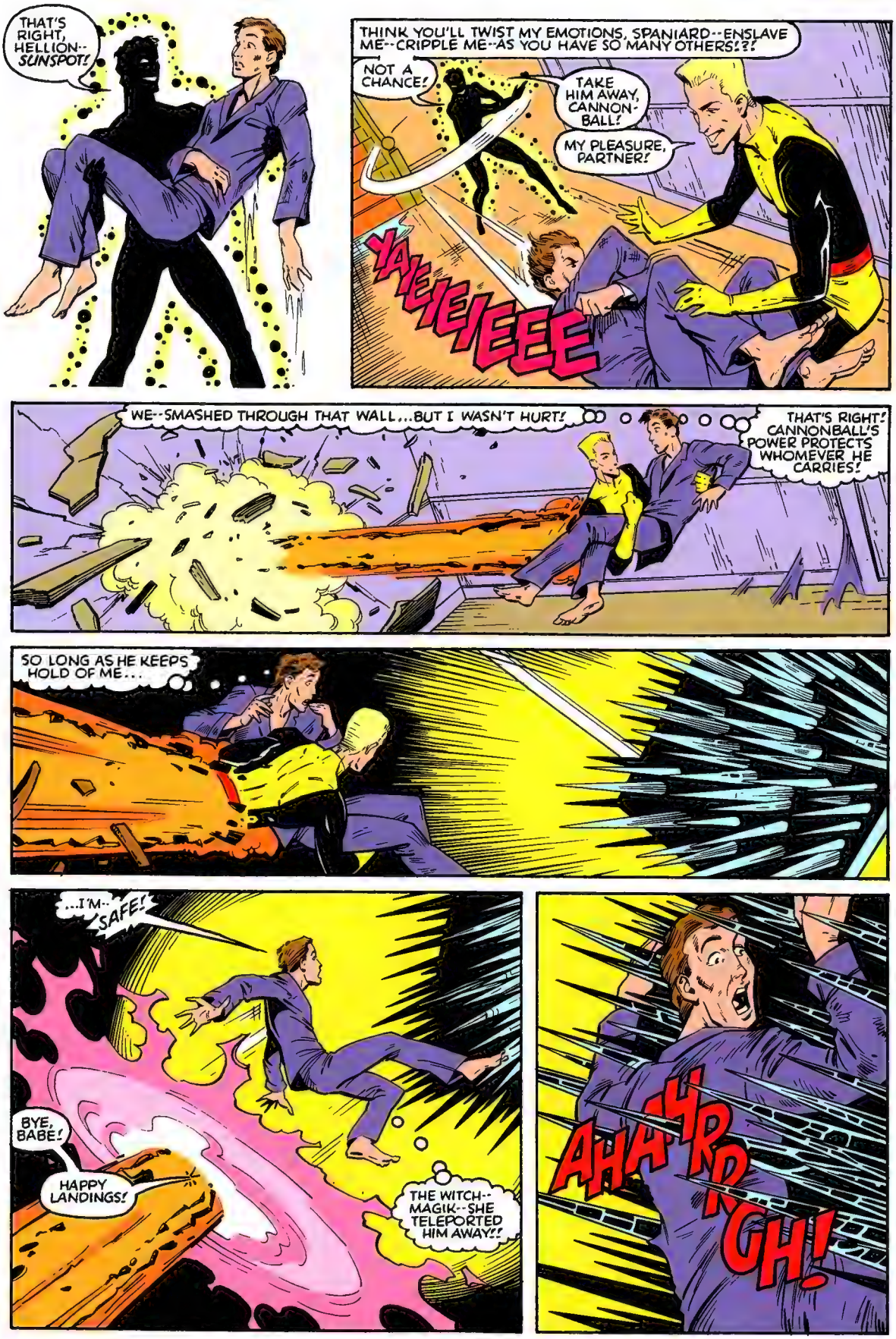

YOU THINK, THUNDERBIRD, HE'D DO THE SAME FOR US?
NOT THE POINT, BUDDY.
YOU WANT TO SINK TO HIS LEVEL?

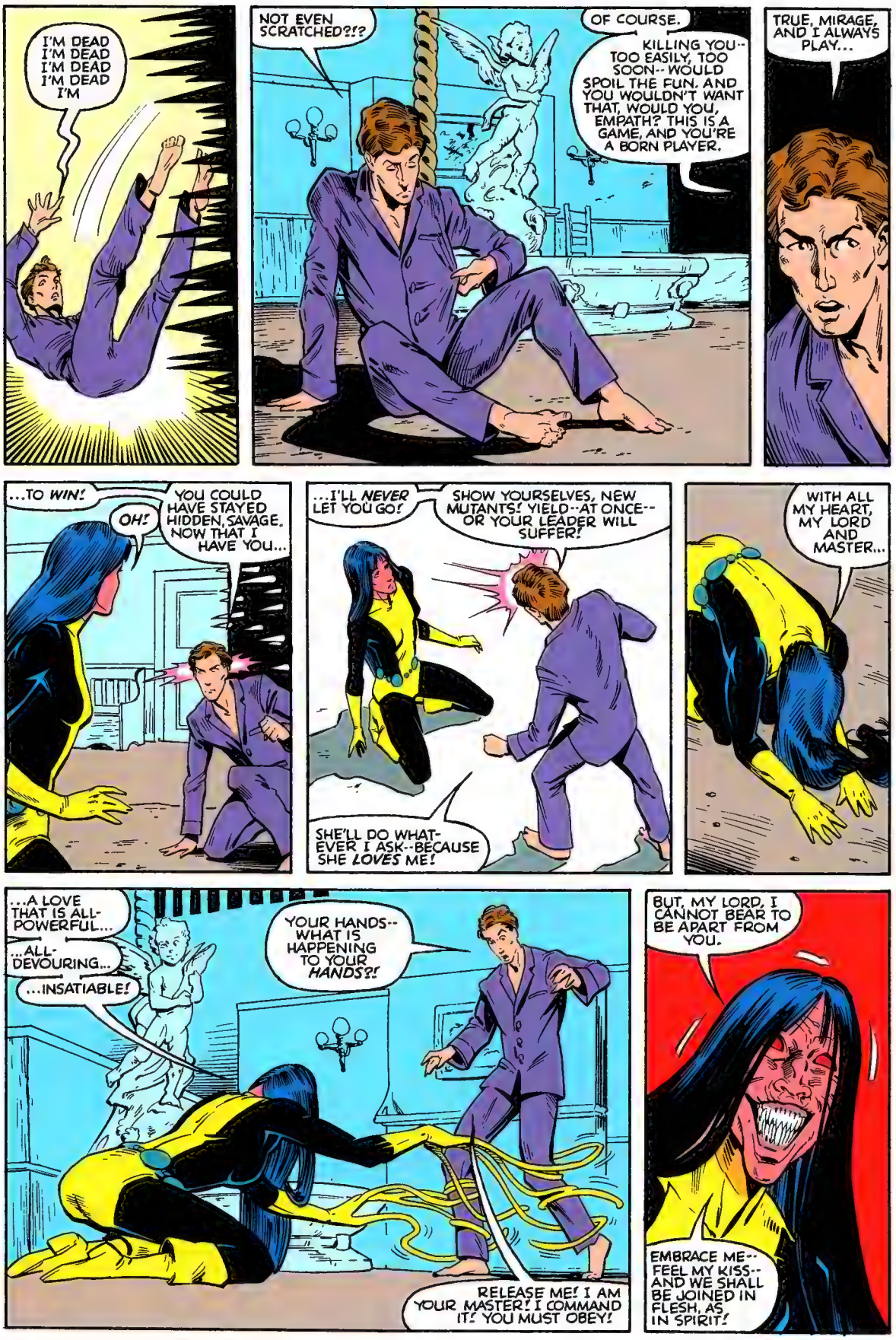

MES AMIS, SHOULD WE NOT INFORM OUR HEADMISTRESS, THE *WHITE QUEEN*?
SHE'S OFF-CAMPUS, TAROT, OUT OF TOUCH.
BESIDES, I FIGURE WE CAN HANDLE XAVIER'S OUTFIT BY OURSELVES.

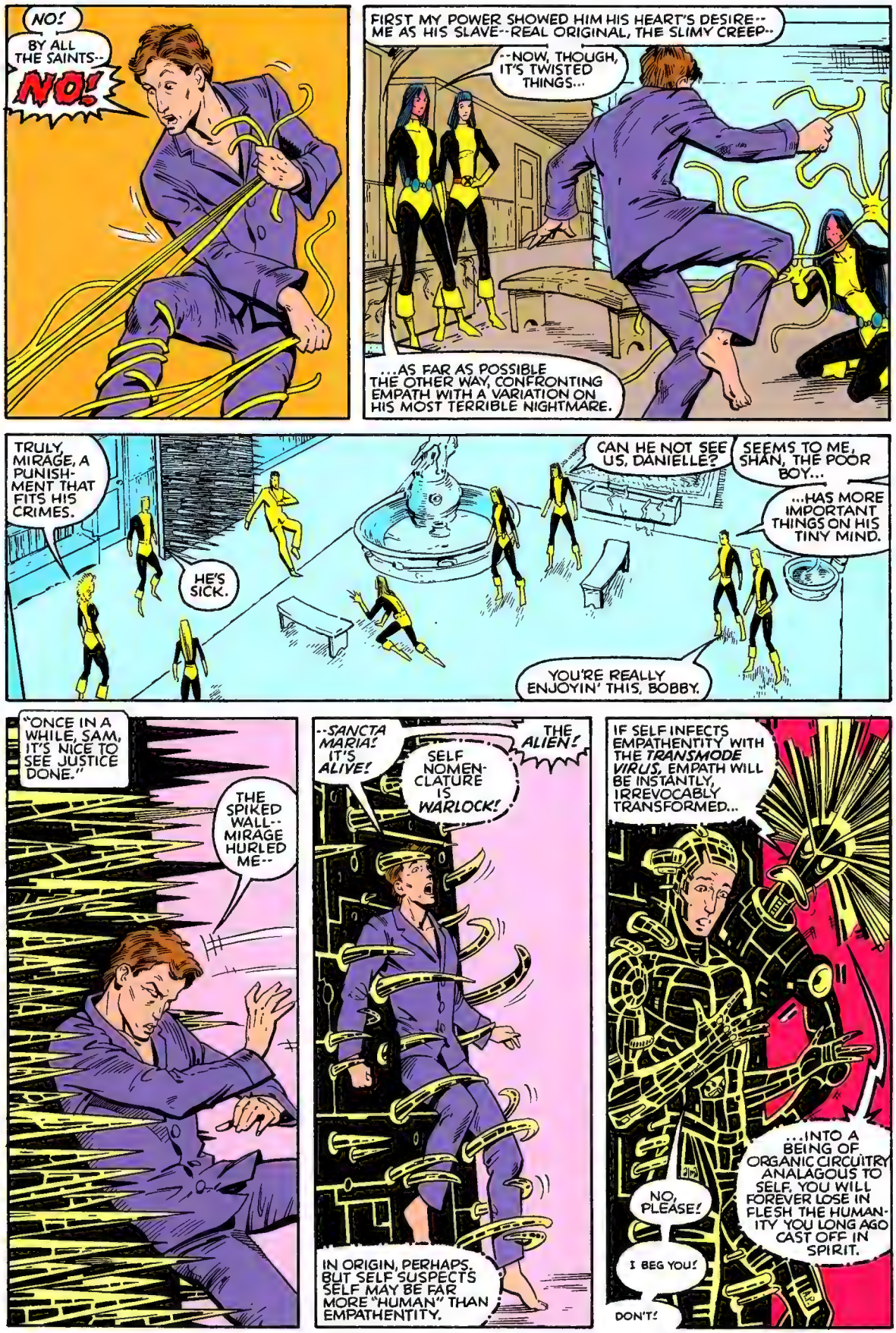

ELSEWHERE...
I...
...I'M...
...ALIVE!
THAT SWORD--I THOUGHT IT CUT ME IN HALF--BUT NOTHING HAPPENED!
THE WITCH-GIRL --ROT HER SOUL--SHE TRICKED ME!
SOMEDAY, SOMEHOW, I SWEAR --I WILL MAKE HER PAY!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
AM I STILL IN LIMBO?!
COULD MAGIK HAVE HEARD MY THOUGHTS?!!?
MOUNTAINS-- AND THE MOON-- BUT WHERE?!
NO WAY OUT THROUGH THE WINDOW--IT'S A SHEER DROP!
THIS FEELS LIKE EARTH...
...UNLESS THE WITCH IS CASTING A SPELL TO MAKE ME THINK SO...
...AND I'M REALLY STILL IN HER ACCURSED LIMBO.
IT'S SO DARK.
ARE HER DEMONS WAITING IN THE SHADOWS?!
THROUGH MY HEART RUNS THE BLOOD OF PRINCES--
--I WILL NOT BE AFRAID!
EMMMMMPAAATH!
WHO'S THERE?!
SHOW YOUR-SELF!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
THE DOOR--CLOSED AND LOCKED BEHIND ME!
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN, LITTLE MAN...
...NOWHERE TO HIDE.
LEAVE ME ALONE!
MAKE US!

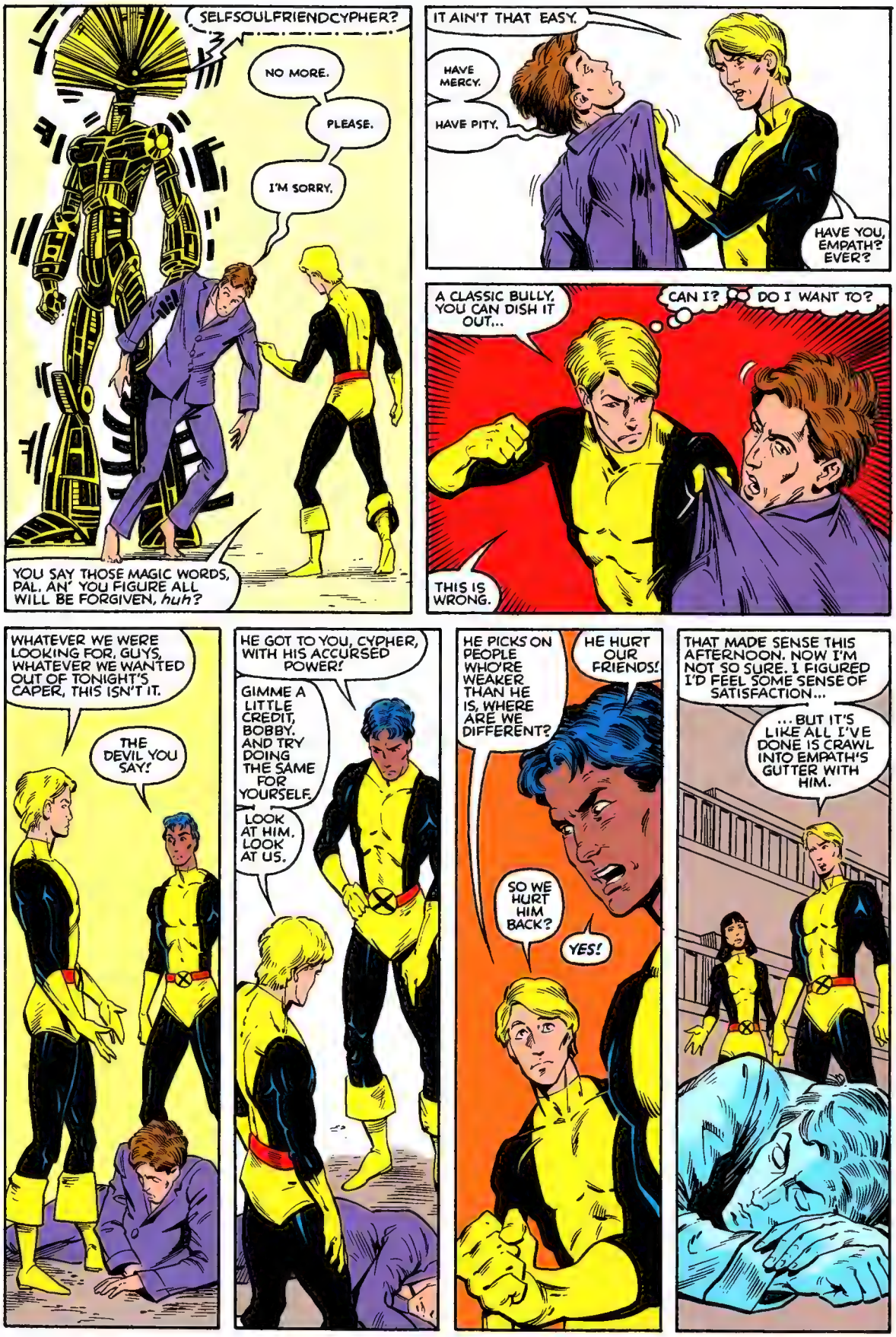

BELOW THE ACADEMY IS A VAST UNDERGROUND COMPLEX WHOSE EXISTENCE--LIKE THAT OF THE HELLIONS THEMSELVES--
--IS KNOWN ONLY TO A SELECT FEW.
NOBODY SAW US SNEAK IN, JET. BUT LET'S NOT PUSH OUR LUCK.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
THE CYBERIAD SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO LOCATE MUTANTS, AS IS XAVIER'S CEREBRO. I'VE UPLOADED EMPATH'S FILE. IF HE IS ANYWHERE NEARBY...
...THIS SHOULD LOCATE HIM.
MEANWHILE...
FIRST, FIND SOME STAIRS...
...THEN THE DOOR--
--WHAT'S THAT?!
THE FLOOR--GLOWING--I CAN FEEL THE HEAT, EVEN UP HERE!
SANCTISSIMA!
RRRRR!!!
KOOM
A VOLCANIC ERUPTION--
--I'LL BE BURNED ALIVE!


THAT, WORM...
...IS THE VERY LEAST OF YOUR TROUBLES!
A-- DEMON?!!
THE LORD OF DEMONS, MAGGOT--
--AND YOU, EMPATH, ARE MY LATEST PLAYTHING!
NO!
YOU WON'T GET ME!!
BUT WHERE CAN I GO, HOW CAN I ESCAPE-- I TRIPPED!
OHWHWW!
AWWWWW--
--POOR LITTLE EMPATH FALL DOWN...
...GO BOO-- HOO!
Y-YEH- YOU!?!


THAT'S RIGHT, HELLION-- SUNSPOT!
THINK YOU'LL TWIST MY EMOTIONS, SPANIARD--ENSLAVE ME--CRIPPLE ME--AS YOU HAVE SO MANY OTHERS!?!
NOT A CHANCE!
TAKE HIM AWAY, CANNON-BALL!
MY PLEASURE, PARTNER!
YAEYEIEEE
WE--SMASHED THROUGH THAT WALL...BUT I WASN'T HURT!
THAT'S RIGHT! CANNONBALL'S POWER PROTECTS WHOMEVER HE CARRIES!
SO LONG AS HE KEEPS HOLD OF ME...
...I'M-- SAFE!
BYE, BABE!
HAPPY LANDINGS!
THE WITCH-- MAGIK--SHE TELEPORTED HIM AWAY!!
AHHHRRGH!


I'M DEAD I'M DEAD I'M DEAD I'M DEAD I'M
NOT EVEN SCRATCHED?!?
OF COURSE. KILLING YOU--TOO EASILY, TOO SOON--WOULD SPOIL THE FUN. AND YOU WOULDN'T WANT THAT, WOULD YOU, EMPATH? THIS IS A GAME, AND YOU'RE A BORN PLAYER.
TRUE, MIRAGE, AND I ALWAYS PLAY...
...TO WIN!
OH!
YOU COULD HAVE STAYED HIDDEN, SAVAGE. NOW THAT I HAVE YOU...
...I'LL NEVER LET YOU GO!
SHOW YOURSELVES, NEW MUTANTS! YIELD--AT ONCE--OR YOUR LEADER WILL SUFFER!
SHE'LL DO WHATEVER I ASK--BECAUSE SHE LOVES ME!
WITH ALL MY HEART, MY LORD AND MASTER...
...A LOVE THAT IS ALL-POWERFUL...
...ALL-DEVOURING...
...INSATIABLE!
YOUR HANDS--WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOUR HANDS?!
RELEASE ME! I AM YOUR MASTER! I COMMAND IT! YOU MUST OBEY!
BUT, MY LORD, I CANNOT BEAR TO BE APART FROM YOU.
EMBRACE ME--FEEL MY KISS--AND WE SHALL BE JOINED IN FLESH, AS IN SPIRIT!


NO!
BY ALL THE SAINTS--
NO!
FIRST MY POWER SHOWED HIM HIS HEART'S DESIRE--ME AS HIS SLAVE--REAL ORIGINAL, THE SLIMY CREEP--
--NOW, THOUGH, IT'S TWISTED THINGS...
...AS FAR AS POSSIBLE THE OTHER WAY, CONFRONTING EMPATH WITH A VARIATION ON HIS MOST TERRIBLE NIGHTMARE.
TRULY, MIRAGE, A PUNISHMENT THAT FITS HIS CRIMES.
HE'S SICK.
CAN HE NOT SEE US, DANIELLE?
SEEMS TO ME, SHAN, THE POOR BOY...
...HAS MORE IMPORTANT THINGS ON HIS TINY MIND.
YOU'RE REALLY ENJOYIN' THIS, BOBBY.
"ONCE IN A WHILE, SAM, IT'S NICE TO SEE JUSTICE DONE."
THE SPIKED WALL--MIRAGE HURLED ME--
--SANCTA MARIA! IT'S ALIVE!
SELF NOMENCLATURE IS WARLOCK!
THE ALIEN!
IN ORIGIN, PERHAPS. BUT SELF SUSPECTS SELF MAY BE FAR MORE "HUMAN" THAN EMPATHENTITY.
IF SELF INFECTS EMPATHENTITY WITH THE TRANSMODE VIRUS, EMPATH WILL BE INSTANTLY, IRREVOCABLY TRANSFORMED...
...INTO A BEING OF ORGANIC CIRCUITRY ANALAGOUS TO SELF. YOU WILL FOREVER LOSE IN FLESH THE HUMANITY YOU LONG AGO CAST OFF IN SPIRIT.
NO, PLEASE!
I BEG YOU!
DON'T!


SELFSOULFRIENDCYPHER?
NO MORE.
PLEASE.
I'M SORRY.
YOU SAY THOSE MAGIC WORDS, PAL. AN' YOU FIGURE ALL WILL BE FORGIVEN, huh?
IT AIN'T THAT EASY.
HAVE MERCY.
HAVE PITY.
HAVE YOU, EMPATH? EVER?
A CLASSIC BULLY. YOU CAN DISH IT OUT...
CAN I?
DO I WANT TO?
THIS IS WRONG.
WHATEVER WE WERE LOOKING FOR, GUYS, WHATEVER WE WANTED OUT OF TONIGHT'S CAPER, THIS ISN'T IT.
THE DEVIL YOU SAY!
HE GOT TO YOU, CYPHER, WITH HIS ACCURSED POWER!
GIMME A LITTLE CREDIT, BOBBY. AND TRY DOING THE SAME FOR YOURSELF.
LOOK AT HIM. LOOK AT US.
HE PICKS ON PEOPLE WHO'RE WEAKER THAN HE IS, WHERE ARE WE DIFFERENT?
HE HURT OUR FRIENDS!
SO WE HURT HIM BACK?
YES!
THAT MADE SENSE THIS AFTERNOON. NOW I'M NOT SO SURE. I FIGURED I'D FEEL SOME SENSE OF SATISFACTION...
... BUT IT'S LIKE ALL I'VE DONE IS CRAWL INTO EMPATH'S GUTTER WITH HIM.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN LEE TO ATTEND SUMMER CONVENTIONS!

That's right! Stan Lee will be appearing at three major comics conventions this summer—one in **Chicago, July 4–6**, one in **Atlanta, July 25–27**, and one in **San Diego, July 31–August 3**.

Stan, of course, for those of you just back from thirty years in Antarctica, is the guy who started it all—the editor and writer of Marvel Comics back at the beginning and all through our formative years. Now he's the creative director of our West Coast animation studio, **Marvel Productions**—and I've got his old job as head creative person at Marvel Comics! And I won't give it back! Never! Never! Never!!!

Ahem. As Editor in Chief, I too will be attending the aforementioned conventions. So, too, will my right hand man, Executive Editor **Tom DeFalco** who oversees our **STAR Comics** line and **Archie Goodwin**, Editorial Director of the **EPIC Comics** department (my left hand man?). You'll also see dozens of other Marvel artists, writers and editors at these cons—far too many to list here. So come out and see us! For more information on these conventions write to these addresses:

Chicago ComiCon
1219 W. Devon
Chicago, IL 60660

San Diego ComiCon
P.O. Box 17066
San Diego, CA 92117

Atlanta Fantasy Fair
P.O. Box 566
Marietta, GA 30061

Stan, as you might expect, will be reminiscing about the early years of Marvel and the birth of the Marvel Universe. Tom, Archie and I will be talking about our spectacular growth and success in recent years, and what's coming up in the future. Especially the most significant development in the comics medium since 1961—the *New Universe!*

THE NEW UNIVERSE!

The *New Universe* from Marvel Comics marks a revolution in comics equal to the birth of the Marvel Age.

During August, 1986, eight interrelated titles will be launched under the *New Universe* banner:

Star Brand
Psi-Force
Merc
Nightmask
Justice
Spitfire and the Troubleshooters
Kickers, Inc.
D.P. 7

These titles chronicle the lives and adventures of the most amazing, intriguing, powerful beings in the universe. Their world is the world outside your window. Their adventures are spectacular, startling, dramatic, and yet real and true to life.

The New Universe is like nothing else ever done or attempted. For two and a half decades Marvel Comics has brought the fantastic to life. Now we are bringing *life* to the fantastic.

New Universe.

NEXT MONTH . . .

a sneak preview of one of the *first* **New Universe** titles.

Strive on!

Jim Shooter
Editor-in-Chief

CHECKLIST

- ☐ **CLOAK AND DAGGER #8**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #234**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #43**
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #18**—Where's Spidey? Find out this issue!
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #12**
- ☐ **CONAN THE KING #36**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #38**—The birth of Snowbird's child!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #280**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #231**—Cap must take a life!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR INDEX #10**—Thrill to the grandeur of issues #161–180!
- ☐ **VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #12**—The dramatic *double-sized* conclusion as Wanda gives birth!
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #10**—Get the scoop on everyone from Phastos to Sabertooth!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #271**—With Paladin!
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #186**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #51**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #323**—Guest starring the Vision!
- ☐ **X-MEN #209**—Look out, it's a major battle issue!
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #10**—Featuring the origins of the Beast and Marvel Girl, Dr. Strange and the Ancient One, and the Sandman!
- ☐ **ETERNALS (Limited Series) #12**—It's the unbelievable *double-sized* conclusion!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNUAL #8**—The Wolverine guest stars in this milestone issue by MARK GRUENWALD, MIKE ZECK and JOHN BEATTY!
- ☐ **POWER MAN AND IRON FIST #125**—Don't miss this *double-sized* final issue!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #2**—Featuring Warlock and the New Mutants, by ANN NOCENTI and ART ADAMS!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #191**—A *triple-size* special, featuring the controversial 3-part drug abuse story from *Amazing Spider-Man* #96–98!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #294**—To rescue the She-Hulk!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #210**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #118**
- ☐ **SECTAURS #8**
- ☐ **THOR #371**—Who is Justice Peace?
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #20**
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #8**—Versus the Freedom Force!
- ☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #1**—Go back to the roots of the new X-Men in this special series! This issue not only reprints the first 3rd of *Giant-Size X-Men* #1, it features *20 new pages* detailing the recruitment of the New X-Men, by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BOLTON!
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT ANNUAL #1**—The Alpha Flight mansion is invaded!
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP INDEX #5**—Meet Spidey's partners from issues #81–100!

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **MARVEL SUPERSPECIAL #39: LABYRINTH**—The official Marvel adaptation of JIM HENSON's new fantasy movie starring DAVID BOWIE! Written by SID JACOBSON with art by JOHN BUSCEMA and ROMEO TANGHAL!
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #42**—With Wolverine, Steelgrip Starkey, and Madballs!
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #28**—Featuring Northstar of Alpha Flight, by BILL MANTLO and KEN STEACY!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #127**
- ☐ **SAVAGE TALES #6**—More hard-hitting action tales by PEPE MORENO and JOHN SEVERIN, among others!

EPIC COMICS

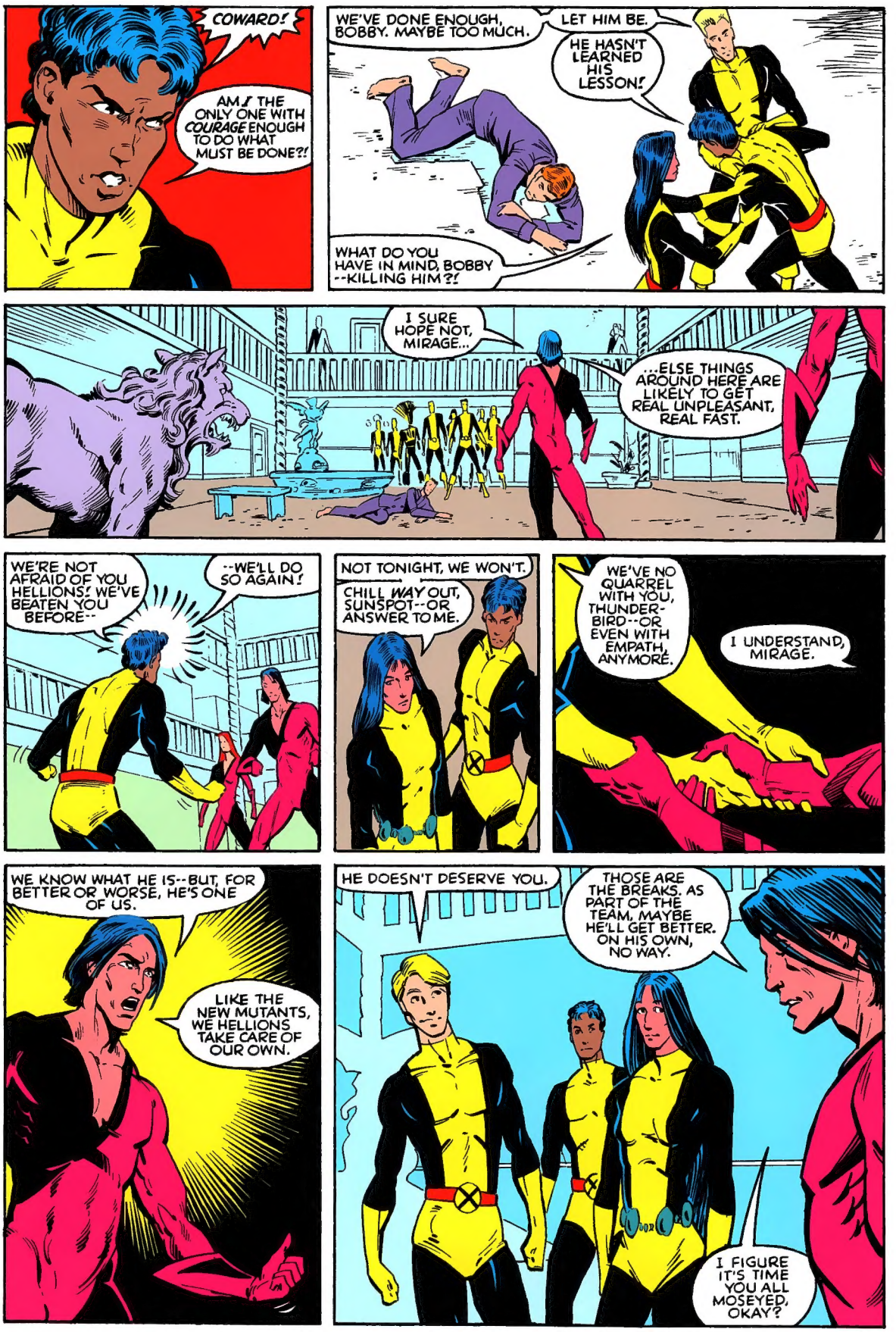
- ☐ **SWORDS OF THE SWASHBUCKLERS #6**
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #19**—With Grooella!
- ☐ **BOZZ CHRONICLES (Limited Series) #4**—A secret revealed!
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #14**—Meet . . . the Bone Woman!
- ☐ **STEELGRIP STARKEY (Limited Series) #1**—Make way for America's hardest working hero! There's no job he can't handle, and with the proper tools, he can work miracles! ALAN WEISS and JIM SHERMAN (creative team extraordinaire) guarantee that you've never seen anyone like Steelgrip! Don't miss him!

STAR COMICS

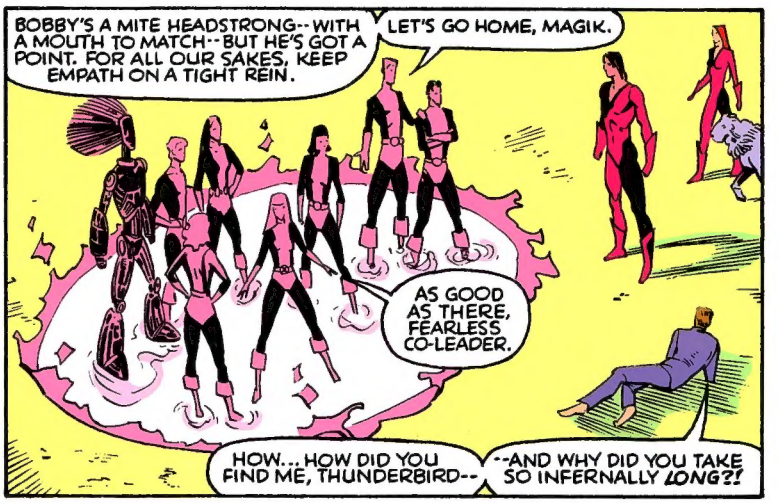
- ☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK #8**
- ☐ **MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE #3**—Hordak traps He-Man in the Slime Pit!
- ☐ **PETER PORKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-HAM #10**
- ☐ **EWOKS #9**
- ☐ **HEATHCLIFF #10**—Marooned on a haunted lighthouse!
- ☐ **MUPPET BABIES #9**—Meet Cleo-Piggy, the famous princess of the Nile!
- ☐ **CARE BEARS #6**
- ☐ **MADBALLS #1**—Who are the Madballs and why are they mad? Is it because they're so ugly?! Hey, wait, don't get mad—that's a joke! EEEYAAH!

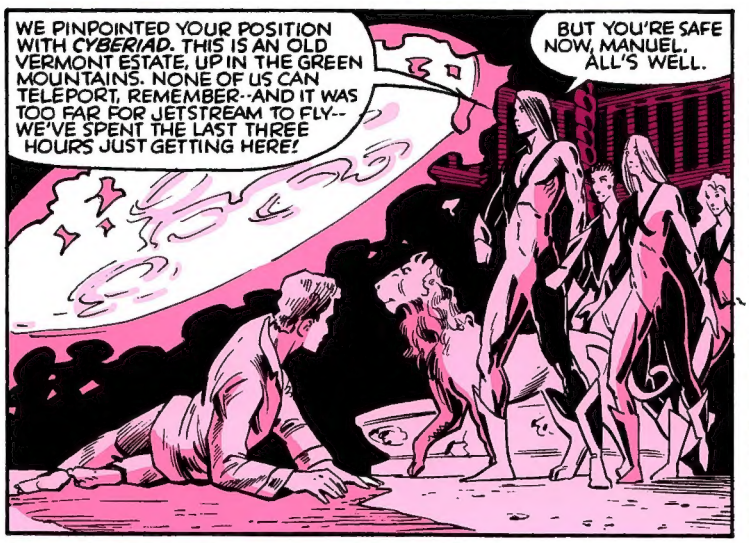
GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE**—Dr. Strange returns to the place that created him. The Ancient One is gone, but he has left a gift for Strange—the powers of which are a mystery! Take a journey into the mystic realm with J.M. DeMATTEIS (writer) and DAN GREENE (artist)!


COWARD!
AM I THE ONLY ONE WITH COURAGE ENOUGH TO DO WHAT MUST BE DONE?!
WE'VE DONE ENOUGH, BOBBY. MAYBE TOO MUCH.
LET HIM BE.
HE HASN'T LEARNED HIS LESSON!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND, BOBBY --KILLING HIM?!
I SURE HOPE NOT, MIRAGE...
...ELSE THINGS AROUND HERE ARE LIKELY TO GET REAL UNPLEASANT, REAL FAST.
WE'RE NOT AFRAID OF YOU HELLIONS! WE'VE BEATEN YOU BEFORE--
--WE'LL DO SO AGAIN!
NOT TONIGHT, WE WON'T.
CHILL WAY OUT, SUNSPOT--OR ANSWER TO ME.
WE'VE NO QUARREL WITH YOU, THUNDER-BIRD--OR EVEN WITH EMPATH, ANYMORE.
I UNDERSTAND, MIRAGE.
WE KNOW WHAT HE IS--BUT, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, HE'S ONE OF US.
LIKE THE NEW MUTANTS, WE HELLIONS TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN.
HE DOESN'T DESERVE YOU.
THOSE ARE THE BREAKS. AS PART OF THE TEAM, MAYBE HE'LL GET BETTER. ON HIS OWN, NO WAY.
I FIGURE IT'S TIME YOU ALL MOSEYED, OKAY?

YEAH. BE SEEING YOU.
YOUR BOY GOT LUCKY TONIGHT, THUNDERBIRD. BEST HE QUITS WHILE HE'S AHEAD.
I DON'T LIKE THREATS, PIPSQUEAK.


BOBBY'S A MITE HEADSTRONG--WITH A MOUTH TO MATCH--BUT HE'S GOT A POINT. FOR ALL OUR SAKES, KEEP EMPATH ON A TIGHT REIN.
LET'S GO HOME, MAGIK.
AS GOOD AS THERE, FEARLESS CO-LEADER.
HOW... HOW DID YOU FIND ME, THUNDERBIRD--
--AND WHY DID YOU TAKE SO INFERNALLY LONG?!


WE PINPOINTED YOUR POSITION WITH CYBERIAD. THIS IS AN OLD VERMONT ESTATE, UP IN THE GREEN MOUNTAINS. NONE OF US CAN TELEPORT, REMEMBER--AND IT WAS TOO FAR FOR JETSTREAM TO FLY--WE'VE SPENT THE LAST THREE HOURS JUST GETTING HERE!
BUT YOU'RE SAFE NOW, MANUEL. ALL'S WELL.

THOSE FOOLS DARED LAY HANDS ON ME!
BY THE SAINTS, THEY SHALL REGRET IT!
THICK AS AN EVER-LOVING BRICK, AREN'T YOU?

Eh?
I SAID I'D KEEP YOU IN LINE, BUSTER.

AND YOU KNOW I'M A MAN WHO TAKES HIS WORD--AND HIS RESPONSIBILITIES--
POW!
--VERY SERIOUSLY!

SURPRISE US, EMPATH.
LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE.
'CAUSE IF YOU DON'T...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ME!
NEXT: RUNAWAY!

REPORT CARD

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
TERRY KAVANAGH
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Chris, Bill, and Ann,

Well, you've finally done it! After nineteen years of comic reading, I have to respond!

The NEW MUTANTS have graduated into the realm where many books are tested but few truly belong. The combination of Chris' *intelligent*, exciting scripting, in tandem with Mr. Sienkiewicz's full blown artwork, results in what amounts to a monthly feast for the eyes and mind.

The conclusion of the "Legion" trilogy in NM #28 was thought invoking to say the least. We all wage battles within our own minds, being influenced by persons and events outside our control, deciding what is right and wrong. Showing how traumatic episodes can alter us for life is not what I would call "standard comic book fare," and for that alone, I am all the more grateful. Please, keep making us think, keep breaking *new* ground.

Bob Emerson
Wheaton, Maryland

Dear Professor Xavier:

I know how much you hate to use your powers to change people's minds, but please make an exception just this once.

Please change the minds of the people who decided to take Bill Sienkiewicz off the active roster of the team who follows the adventures of your novice students, the New Mutants. I know you are probably more concerned about the fate of the world now that the Beyonder has arrived, but please take a little time to accomodate my request.

My reasons for asking you to do this are (1) Bill is a great (and I do mean GREAT) artist; (2) his art has created many subtle undertones and ideas in NEW MUTANTS that the new artists won't be able to follow, and (3) just because I asked nicely.

I'm sure that the new artists are able and very talented, but Bill has created many new facets in your students' characterization that someone else couldn't portray. It's like giving someone a bit of your Banana Split and then giving them a scoop of vanilla ice cream in a regular cone.

Once again, please change the minds of the people that made this decision. Also, good luck against this new anti-mutant movement and the Beyonder.

Phil Inocencio
(no address)

We were sorry to see Bill leave, too, Phil. However, we had a lot more faith than you, it seems, in the artists who followed in his footsteps. One and all, they've done top notch work; it isn't the same as Bill's—*nothing* is the same as Bill's, or even comes close—but it is as powerful and evocative in its own way. Now, the art assignment has gone to Jackson Guice and we think you'll be impressed. What Bill did was set some pretty impressive standards; Jackson more than lives up to them. As for Bill himself, wait till you see the ELEKTRA mini-series he's painting for Epic Comics, off a script by her creator, Frank Miller. Wow! That is truly like nothing seen in modern comics.

Dear Sirs:

I was reading your magazine while having lunch aboard my balloon with George R.R. Martin when I noticed the reference to my old band, *Nazgul*. I just thought that you'd like to know that we're planning to get back together. Our new manager even found someone that looks like Hobbins, although he doesn't have anything like his stage presence. We're planning a tour before we release a new record. Who knows, we might even play West Mesa, just to prove that any superstition about it isn't real. May your Armageddon's never rag.

Peter Faxon
c/o 41 University Road
Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

Yeah, that's what we hear from Sandy Blair, the former—and our favorite—mainstay of *Hedgehog*.

Dear Chris, Bill, Ann and Co:

It's amazing how the artwork on two closely related books (X-MEN and NEW MUTANTS) can be so different, yet each seems to fit Marvel's milieu perfectly.

I love the way John Romita, Jr. has the X-Men operating in a world of sharp clothes, high tech gadgets and stylish settings. Nowadays, the book almost looks like the *Miami Vice* of comics, which is OK by me! JR, Jr. finally appears to be at home on the book and I've never seen his stuff look better. (I know I'm sending this to NEW MUTANTS, but if you'll pass this along I can save 22 cents!)

If I was only going to say one thing about Bill Sienkiewicz's art on NEW MUTANTS, I'd say that it really *moves!* Mr. S's stylized figures and kinetic breakdowns really push the story along, and give the book a look that's totally unique.

Lest I forget, the stories in this book aren't half bad either! I like the frequent overlap of plots and characters between the two mutant books, especially now that the anti-mutant sentiment plotline is coming to a head. It looks like it's going to be one big brouhaha (as Mr. Big might say).

Finally, I was surprised to see references to the *Nazgul* in both X-MEN and NEW MUTANTS this month. A month or so back, I stumbled across George R.R. Martin's *The Armageddon Rag* in a bookstore and I found that it was one of those rare books I literally could not put down 'til I was finished with it. I'm glad to see that I wasn't the only one who was impressed. I hope you'll let everyone in on the secret so they don't miss a haunting and magnificent read. (How about an adaptation by Chris and Bill?)

Thom Drinko
195 Wheeler Street, #103
Akron, Ohio 44304

For the uninformed in our audience, George R.R. Martin is the award-winning author of *Fevre Dream* and *Armageddon Rag*, among other titles. He is a long-time comics (and X-MEN/NEW MUTANT) fan, was a contributor to Marvel's HEROES FOR HOPE benefit jam comic and is currently packaging and editing a shared world anthology, *Wildcards*, which chronicles life on a world where people possess super-powers. Can't imagine what such a crazy place would be like.

Dear Mr. Claremont,

Professional wrestling is *not* fake!

Thomas Judd
(formerly Mo the Pulverizer)
1676 Guernseytown Road
Watertown, CN 06795

Yeah, Archie Goodwin—whose opinion and sagacity are respected in just about *everything*—said much the same thing. Just goes to show—hi, Arch, why're you looking like that, what are you do*OWWW* ow ow *OW!!!* Leggo! Oh, no, not the triple spin reverse body *slam! CRASH!*

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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Thomas Costello — Business Manager

NEXT ISSUE: Jackson Guice and Kyle Baker return as the New Mutants are re-united with Wolfsbane to face their wildest foe, Legion—a mutant who's a team all by himself.

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